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THE
BERNARDO
TAPES

THE SNEEZING SEASON

Hay fever,
asthma—
and food
allergies—
are making
more and more
Canadians
miserable



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Maclean's

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The sneezing season

As trees and plants discharge pollen into the spring and summer breezes, three million Canadians will be plagued by the aggravating symptoms of hay fever. And has ever been just one of the allergies—to everything from cats to peanuts—making more and more lives miserable. Meanwhile, growing legions of people are suffering—even dying—from asthma.

Holding the world hostage

22 Amid diplomatic parlays and emergency debates, Western leaders demanded the release of UN peacekeepers held hostage in Bosnia. But the Bosnian Serbs threatened to turn the region into "a butcher shop" if any attempt was made to free them by force.



**The two faces of
Karla Homolka**

50 As the prosecution showed graphic, disturbing slides in the murder trial of Paul Bernardo, the public pondered the enigma of Karla Homolka: was she a calculating psychopath or, as the Crown alleges, another of Bernardo's victims?

Classy chassis

58 A Montreal museum's exhibit of 50 exceptional cars, from a steampunk 1886 Benz to a 1995 non-polluting Pininfarina Bifus, has enraged the city's artistic community, but clearly delighted the museum-going public. It is one of the most successful shows ever mounted by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.





OVER SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE IS COVERED BY WATER.
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Cries And Whispers

*The following is a guest editorial
by Senior Editor Andrew Phillips*

The cries and whispers in Toronto's Courtroom 6-1 are not for the weak of stomach. It is in that eerily sterile chamber that Paul Bernardo is being tried for murder, and it is there that the jury that will pronounce on his guilt or innocence at exactly last week through some of the most disturbing visual evidence ever presented in a Canadian court. Videotapes of Bernardo and Kirk Bozella having sex while candidlyfuscating abducting young girls, more videos that the Crown says show Bernardo raping one of the two girls he is accused of murdering. The families of the victims, Linda Matalay and Kristen French, pointedly walked out of the court when the graphic tapes were first shown—and who could even imagine their pain would such soaring reminders of their children's suffering?

Certainly, Justice Patrick Lefèvre



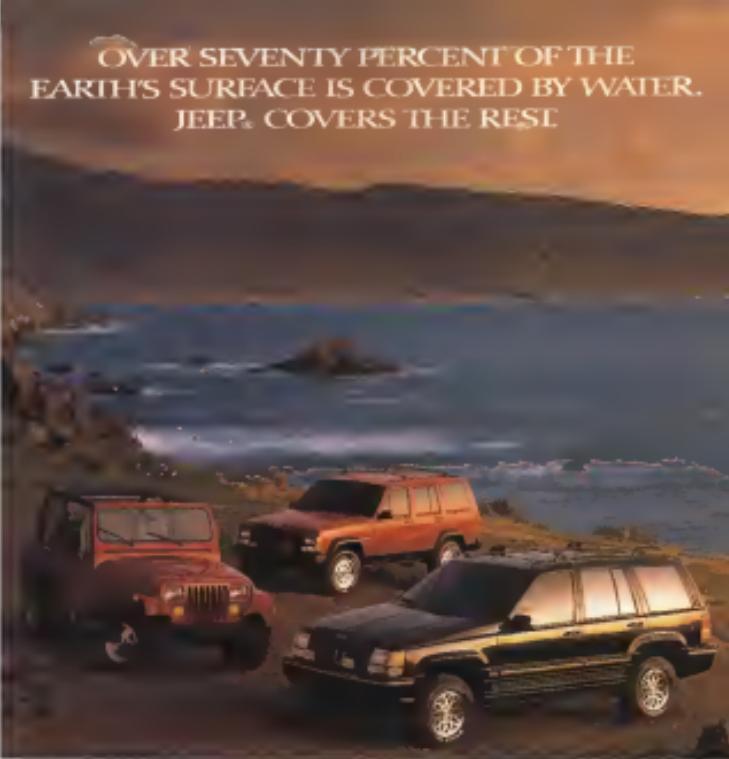
Brianne French (left) and Debbie Matalay walk out of court

argued as he made shakily clear when he ruled last week on the constitutional issue of exactly who could see the tapes. He had to strike a difficult balance between the rights of the accused, the public and an increasingly vocal new party in such cases—the victims and their relatives. Lefèvre's solution could at best be described as imperfect; he ordered that only court officials and the jury could watch the key tapes involving Bernardo and the murdered girls, while journalists and the general public had to be content to hear only the sound track.

The result was hardly satisfactory for those who believe that justice must not only be done, but must be seen by the public to be done. Under Canadian law, jurors will be forbidden from ever discussing the trial

and the evidence publicly, and so we will ultimately have to take it on faith that they drew the proper inferences from what only they were allowed to see. And the decision raised legitimate concerns that the growing role of criminal victims and their families at the judicial process may lead to more and more evidence being excluded from public view to spare their sensibilities. But Lefèvre's ruling could also be described as reasonably sensible, given its refusal to come down completely on one side or the other. In his insistence that "the issues are not right and wrong, black and white," And it should be said, in its essential compassion for the families and for the memories of the two lost girls.

For the news media, covering the trial has also been a delicate balancing act. After two years of being forbidden from printing details of the case by the publication ban imposed during Bernardo's trial, journalists naturally wanted to tell the story they have been waiting on. For many of them, it has not been easy. The public may have an image of hardened characters who have seen it all, heard it all. Well, they hadn't seen and heard the likes of what came out in Courtroom 6-1 last week. Markon's Sister, Mary French, who has covered the case from the beginning, confided that he left "a bit battered by it all." Most media outlets, in fact, have been remarkably restrained in their coverage. However shocking readers and viewers find much of the reporting, many of the more graphic details have not been widely set out in a simple sense of property and good taste. It may not be in the self-servile take-on-persons tradition of the American media. But that measured approach may also be quintessentially Canadian.



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THE UNREACHABLES

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AN AMERICAN VIEW



Decency, honor and the gun lobby

BY FRED BRUNING

George Bush always seemed an unlikely sort for the National Rifle Association. The former president keeps an official residence in Texas and keeps his crates country music and first-port rants (but good old boy, bush isn't). He is a moderate Yankee blue-blood who grew up from Yale and owns a splendid water-side retreat in Maine. There is a better chance that Bill Clinton will tour the country as a "huckster" for West Virginia than there is of George and Barbara Bush arriving at the local American Legion hall in a road-tripper's pickup with a shotgun slung across the back window. Her-here poster boy? Spend us, already.

No, it is clear that Bush enlisted in the NRA because he needed the maximum voter-single as fast. He was not alone, of course. Plenty of U.S. politicians seek the blessing of the right-wing gun constituency even if they wouldn't be caught dead in a check-blend or sheetrock lead at camp can below the countenances sharply. For the pledge of NRA support, a candidate need only step forward in appropriate increments to drop gun-control efforts as often as rotators, and, of course, recite on cue that guns don't kill people, people do. (Take Bush for home runs, too, but the Bushes would have been a barn without a bat. Oh, what the catch?)

A political budget doesn't mind double-crossing his intellect and shredding what may pass for his morality; the NRA (membership: 5.5 million) offers a pretty good deal. Hell, chances are the god ain't going to personally know anyone who gets snarled by a Saturday Night Special or wounded when the full moon prompts the next whackaloka to play 3rd offensive in a bar-room shoot. To reward constituents like the NRA's, NRA members rarely let the troops on election day run far enough to keep the country safe for democracy—and the owners of M-16s. As Abraham Lincoln

said: "We are not a nation of cowards, but we are a nation of cowards who are afraid to be honest."

The fund-raising letter was a beast, all right, a renegade, incendiary masterpiece, and, by golly, it made George Bush furious

said, it is quite possible to hoodwink some of the people all of the time. On this premise the NRA and its political footnotes survive and, after, flourish.

In elevation to NRA director, Bush followed only slightly during his presidency term by breaking a longingly weak ear at an imported semi-automatic weapon and failing to oppose with sufficient vigor a waiting-period proposal on gun purchases aimed at buy-guns-please. The NRA withheld its endorsement for Bush's no-federal bid in 2000. The president took his lumps like a man, and, even though he lost the race, continued paying NRA membership dues. Then one day not long ago, Bush—so far as we know does not intend to run again for public office—came across an overwhelming NRA fundraising letter.

This thing was a beast, all right, a renegade, incendiary masterpiece, and, by golly, it made George Bush furious.

Saged by NRA executive vice-president Wayne LaPierre, the letter took a swipe at federal law-enforcement agents in terms that might have seemed hyperbole even for the fervent moods of Rumspringer Central. LaPierre is the guy who goes on TV all the time to suggest that if America is disarmed

by so much as a single 20-caliber rifle, constitutional freedoms will be rendered worthless and the nation soon shall perish. While you know underneath it is not exactly LaPierre's gift, it was remarkable that a man paid to issue public policy statements described federal law-enforcement agents as thugs in "tan bullet helmets and black storm trooper uniforms" who would nothing more than to "harass, infringe and even murder law-abiding citizens."

That did it. Bush whipped off a letter of his own saying he was quitting the NRA because of the "harsh language" employed by LaPierre. On a source note, Bush said he knew an agent who had been killed in the April bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City and another who died during the 1993 siege of the Branch Davidian religious compound near Waco, Tex. The NRA fired racing salvo, Bush said, "deeply affects my own sense of decency and honor."

It was not considered polite to ask where the former chief executive's sense of decency and honor had been tested for so many years in regard to the NRA. Instead, Bush was saluted by Clinton, who blamed the organization itself and demanded that the NRA donate proceeds gained from the nation's letter to families of police officers killed in the line of duty. Then LaPierre apologized for not making clear that the was referring only to federal—not state—police officers in his letter. The NRA officially denounced Clinton's call for a philosophical gesture. "We think the President has no suggestion," LaPierre replied. The charges most definitely hit the mark.

The related to this whole affair is that public pressure for gun control in recent years has harvested dividends at the NRA. In time, the organization has fallen more deeply into the embrace of the insatiable right. As New York City newspaper writer Marie Cocco noted in a recent essay, NRA legislative director Tanya Merello privately runs a corporate network called Hitler's Bazaar that, among other felonies, lies of information, posted a recipe for home-made bombs. Not to be outdone, says Cocco, the NRA's own multifaceted computer services has recruited agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms—which expanded the raid on the Waco compound—and sponsored an open images of "billy" firecrackers covering an open campfire.

This is rough stuff—scary, as Bush illustrates. No rougher ever for some NRA members. A recent *Newspaper/CNN* poll showed that American gun owners' support for the NRA's positions has dropped 20 percentage points in five years. Maybe the gun crowd is slowly cooling to its series 30 at end wig, maybe the NRA leadership is, we at the organization's recent convention in Phoenix, Ariz., delegates were walking the floor with empty holsters. Why? Because the NRA's most zealous members leave their shooting marks at the face. NRA officials argue that people—our guns—kill people, but you can't blame them for wanting shoot exceptions to the rule.

BY MARY NEMETH

To an uninitiated observer, it may have seemed as though the two campaign teams had steeply diverged over their schedules last week. While Saskatchewan Conservative Leader Bill Boyd tried to reinforce social democratic turf as he toured rural health clinics that used to be hospitals before the province's NDP government started its budget cutting, NDP Leader Roy Romanow was meeting burgeoning businesses—often two days a week—pressing intergovernmental and the economic "vision of Saskatchewan." But there was one method to the Prairie madman's ways: the run-up to Saskatchewan's June 27 election. Premier Romanow leads the first government in Canada to balance its budget this decade. And he has long been an advocate of pragmatic politics in a province that has traditionally elected fiscally prudent, if popular, NDP governments. His challenge now is to convince voters that his reforms have boosted Saskatchewan's business prospects without causing undue harm to social programs.

Romanow was in a strong position going into the campaign. According to a CBC-August poll of 1,002 respondents, conducted just days before the May 22 election call, the NDP is supported by 36 per cent of declared voters, compared with 30 per cent for the Liberals and just 12 per cent for the Tories. The election is clearly Romanow's to lose. "Romanow is a pragmatic, mainstream politician," says Philip Gourevitch, a University of Regina political scientist. "He's opposed to Liberals and Conservatives and is definitely in a clear right-wing alternative. But it's very hard to detect exactly what kind of a choice."

In fact, while Ontario's NDP government appears poised for victory in this year's provincial election and its scandal-prone counterpart in British Columbia is floundering—and the federal NDP is mired in a painful soul-searching over its leader as a leadership convention in October—Romanow's wing of the party, shown in the country, is flourishing. Yet he is far from arrogant: Romanow balanced the province's 1994-1995 budget after nearly four years of tax increases on everything from cigarettes to retail sales, as well as spending cuts that included closing 37 rural hospitals and converting them to health clinics. Both Conservative Leader Boyd and Liberal Leader Lydia Hartenbeck accuse the New Democrats of breaking the health care, leaving some communities without adequate care. They also promise tax relief—Boyd pledges to cut two points off Saskatchewan's nine-per-cent provincial sales tax, Hartenbeck promises a four-point cut.

Romanow has had to do a careful balancing act in fighting back. To those in Saskatchewan worried about high taxes, he says the opposition parties cannot achieve their proposed tax cuts without draining the province's bank into deficit financing. To traditional supporters on the left more concerned about his health care, Romanow argues that he only did what had to be done. "Sad if not the New Democrats doing the reforms, who can New Democrats in charge of revenue, who

then?" he asked party members at a rally at North Thistleford, 140 km northwest of Saskatoon, on evening last week.

The premier's supporters argue that in tackling the deficit, he is only returning to the roots of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, the precursor to the NDP, which first came to power in Saskatchewan in 1944. They are fond of pointing out that it took Saskatchewan's first social democratic premier, Tommy Douglas, nearly 20 years after he became premier to introduce medicare in 1962. But there are

Roy Romanow's pragmatic politics play well in the heartland of Canadian socialism

THE MIDDLE WAY



McMurray (left), Chretien and Romanow foraging the kitchen cabinet in 1984. Romanow in his campaign media room last week (above): "I like to compete."



also those on the left who claim that view is "unrealistic"—Romanow balanced budgets, critics say. John Conroy, a political sociologist at the University of Regina, says Romanow's "the wealthy and the business sector haven't paid their share of the way." Conroy argues that the left wing of the party has been completely broken out of claiming Romanow's banner—a charge Romanow denies. But Romanow also expresses admiration over critics who accuse him of deficit obsession and of forgoing Douglas's legacy. "I have a sense for somebody who says that that is all it is," he said in an interview this week. "That would be fine in 1980."

But Romanow's anti-deficit campaign does not in itself explain his success. Instead, argues former Manitoba NDP premier Howard Pawley, the appeal of the Saskatchewan party is due in large part to the province's populist, small-town roots. "There is some residue of feeling that we have a responsibility to our neighbours," he says. "There is a cultural difference." And, of course, the CCP/NDP has governed Saskatchewan for 25 of the past 31 years. That means, as former Govt. Schreyer said at a Saskatchewan Romanow breakfast for 280 business people last week, "we're used to NDP governments—we're not afraid of them as they are in Ontario." It also means NDP politicians get personal, on-the-job training—Romanow, for example, has been an the provincial stage for most of the past 28 years, including serving as deputy premier under former premier Alton Bartonsky from 2001 to 1982. "When Bob Rae took over [in Ontario], he had never seen inside of a cabinet room before," says Romanow. "And I don't think anyone in Mike Harcourt's government had either."

Even after all his years in public life, Roy Romanow refuses to let his date of birth in the Parliamentary Guide. His residence goes back to 1982 when he was unusually early against Blatchford for the party leadership.

"They said I was too young, so I had to keep my age quiet then," says Romanow, by way of explanation. "And now...some say it's the best thing I ever did. We got to keep it a secret for 18 years." In 1982, he adds, "I was 35."

He was running for the next leadership a second time, he told reporters that he had turned 40 on Aug. 12, 1980—and that is the "rightest answer," he said. That would put him at 55 today.

Those who like his background in labour, his father, Michael, a graduate from western Ukraine in Saskatchewan in 1922, he wanted to be a farmer, but it was the eve of the Great Depression, when work was scarce and the land ravaged by drought. And so Michael Romanow set sail for a job doing truck maintenance, with the Canadian National Railways. So Michael's wife, Tilda, and their daughter, Ann, later joined him in Saskatchewan, where Ray was born. The family lived in the city's working class and ethnically diverse west end and had struggled to get by. Today, Romanow likes to remind how they did not have a bath tub in the early years—and how he would visit his cousin's home across town for Saturday baths. "But I didn't know it was an exceptionally difficult childhood," he says. "We were really wealthy; but we were within the standards of the community, and I didn't feel that I had planned anything."

Romanow's father was an ardent Ukrainian nationalist who dreamed of reviving one day in a Ukraine free of Soviet rule. He enrolled young Ray—who spoke Ukrainian at home and did not learn to speak English well until he went to school—to Ukrainian classes three nights a week to maintain his first language and learn about his heritage. Neither of his parents was particularly political—although his father, like many immigrants of the day, supported the Bolsheviks. "He gave them credit for allowing him to come to the home of freedom," says Romanow. But his father was also a faithful union member, something that his son says stuck with him. So, he adds, did a desire "to go to school and improve my life."

Romanow is known now as a shrewd and sometimes passionate con-

A lawyer by training, Romanow is known to be as competitive in politics as he is when playing tennis and badminton. His critics claim he cannot stand to lose, and that his key weakness is wanting to be liked too much. Friends counter that his deficit is an aspect of his personality that he is willing to endure harsh criticism. "There's no question that Roy really revels in the affection of the electorate and suffers when he feels he has lost it," says Dan Chang, a former law partner and new president of Saskatchewan's Crown Investments Corp. "I think in some respects, he's almost too sensitive to be in politics. But in the past 35 years he's seen his take decisions that have been groundbreaking for him. He showed surprising steel."

At the same time, Romanow has declined, or postponed, ambitions to run for the federal NDP leadership. He obviously prefers the actual business of running a province as the prospect of life on the opposition benches in Ottawa. "You couldn't get me there with a box of candy or a can of dip mix," he says. "I think that social democracy in a practical governing setting can be accomplished here. It's important to acknowledge the ideals—don't get me wrong. It's just not my role."

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Romanow is known now as a shrewd and sometimes passionate con-

for a talent he honed early. He played hooky—with Eaton's catalogues for skin photos—but was not by his own admission particularly talented. And when he failed to make his Grade 7 basketball team, he offered instead to do pay-by-play for school games. Later, informal radio stations invited him to do live radio broadcasts of power games, which in turn led to a part-time job as a sports and news announcer at the station during his high school and university years.

Romanow studied arts and then law at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon between 1960 and 1963. It was during his second year there that his father died of a massive heart attack. Romanow's mother took on a cleaning job at a local teacher's college to help keep the household running.

Romanow got his first taste of politics when he was elected student body president in the early 1960s. He also served on the university's steering committee. Angus MacLean, now MacLean, who used to work at the same law office as Romanow's father, appears to have influenced him in a Liberal direction. Romanow's university years were "very academic," though not in a traditional way, according to his son. "He always took himself very seriously." His student interests were all five extra-mural activities at U of S, including radio, while Romanow listened further to the left. "He was never anti-right in political outlook," says MacLean. "He always just thought government could do a little more."

It was during his student days, though, before Romanow was drawn into party politics, largely because of the debate over Douglas' long-controversial nuclear project that prompted the province in the early 1960s. A magnetic figure in Saskatchewan politics, Douglas was the inspiration for many young New Democrats. And Romanow was no different. In 1968, Douglas became the federal leader of

the newly created NDP and young Romanow got involved with Douglas' campaigns, occasionally acting as his chauffeur and press aide. "He actually wanted me to run federally in 1962," says Romanow. "But I wasn't ready yet." Instead he finished law school and joined the Galtengberg Taylor and Tafels law firm in Saskatoon.

It was about the time when he finished law school that Romanow met Eleanor

Romanow on Ottawa politics: 'You couldn't get me there with a box of candy or a ton of dynamite'

Boykoewich, a radio reporter and later environmental writer. They married three years later. Today, Romanow says at the campaign's wholehearted launch in Saskatoon's Old Station district, while his husband remains at home on leave, Romanow concedes that his political schedule has taken a toll. "It's been difficult on Eleanor," he says. "But we do like our children, which I think would have made it even more difficult."

Eleanor, who holds a bachelors degree in fine arts and a masters in education, is a single mother whose work has been on display at several local exhibitions. She stays away from the spotlight, declining media inter-

views—including one from MacLean's last book—and only rarely brings her husband in the campaign trail. "She'll do one or two campaign appearances," says Romanow. "But her attitude is that that's my job and she does her own thing. It's actually very good because it prevents an exclusively political atmosphere."

The couple had been married only a few months when Romanow was first elected as an opposition member in 1987. And it was just three years later that when he took a run at the provincial NDP leadership. "Now looking back, it was a foolish thing to do," says Romanow. "I wasn't ready, I wasn't mature enough." He lost to Blakeway easily—former cabinet minister and by then a 30-year veteran of the party—on the third ballot.

The 1988s were a prosperous time for Saskatchewan, with good crops and strong commodity prices. And perhaps because it could add to its "Saskatchewan government image," says Romanow, that Romanow, in fact, under Blakeway's guidance, attempted to expand the privatization of nearly half the postal industry to Saskatchewan—a move for Conservative premier Brian Bevan later revisted. Romanow continues to believe that privatization was bad for the province, but says that his government cannot afford to buy back into the postal industry.

In addition to being deputy premier, Romanow served as attorney general through-



Romanow with wife Eleanor; she stays away from the media spotlight

out the Blakeway years, and Romanow also travelled to Ottawa with Blakeway to help him run the much-publicized accord that passed the Canadian Constitution in 1982. In fact, it was Romanow along with his federal and Ontario counterparts at the time, Jean Chretien and Ray McMurtry, who forged the final deal of the final deal in what became known as the kitchen accord, a hasty scribbled agreement worked out in the kitchen of a suite at Ottawa's Chateau Laurier hotel on Nov. 5, 1980.

Blakeway and Romanow later paid dearly

for what turned out as their prosecution with constitutional issues. Romanow says it was clear within hours of the election call in 1982 that they had made a terrible mistake: you could tell where it was with the way people were looking at you." Blakeway says, "we're never going to say it when it happens." In the Tory election that year, Romanow lost his own seat by 20 years to John Zundelchuk—a 25-year-old seatmate age 21.

While others disagree, Romanow insists that he rejected very early in life many issues from politics. He wrote a book about the constitutional process, lectured at the University of Saskatchewan, and renovated practicing law offices in Estevan, an English community in the

Red River Valley while retaining current levels of healthcare funding. But she has no intention of changing her style. "Six years ago, I didn't need this job and I don't need it today," she says. "It's nice to have a sense of purpose and a sense of purpose."

Romanow, in the riding of Saskatoon-Greenwood, has established a successful practice consulting cash-strapped health-care providers who are experiencing stress. "My own life," she says, "tells me that people have to be able to have a sense of themselves and a sense of purpose."

Running in the riding of Saskatoon-Greenwood, Romanow has a political career that spans 20 years. Born in Estevan, a town of 1,200 in western Saskatchewan, the commanding father of two spent most of his adult life leading the family firm in the area, and helping to run several hardware, cement and plumbing businesses. Since winning the Kinsmen riding for the Conservatives in 1981, Boyd has been a legend and curse by his political opponents. In November, 1994, he won the party leadership—in part because he had no less to offer than his predecessor, Saskatchewan Conservative Par-

University of Regina who was Romanow's executive assistant from 1989 to 1992, now argues that, having survived his years in the political wilderness, Romanow came back willing to take tough and politically risky stands. "The experience of defeat," says Clarkson, "gave him an iron will."

Romanow has had his old seat in the next election in 1993 and won the NDP leadership by acclamation the year after that when Blakeway stepped aside. In the meantime, the Tories had governed Saskatchewan during a difficult time, which included a collapse of international prices for grain and other commodities, as well as droughts. And while government revenues plummeted, Dewar also cut taxes. By the time he called an election in 1993, his government was running a \$842-million deficit. Romanow had to roll the pants from the waist to the funds of the campaign, and his party won 25 of the 50 seats.

An Romanow campaigned for reelection in 1993, promising more fiscal stability, lower taxes, a promise to drop the plan's cost-of-living increases, his projected over the next four years savings and cost reduction, to combat spending, promises to pay off the provincial debt, and he promised to do it all in what he calls the compassionate Saskatchewan way. "If he does this, he might run for yet another term after that," he says. "I like to compete," he concedes. "Though I wouldn't say I'm competitive to the point of being consumed by it. In 1981, I don't know if I have developed the wanting to know where to withdraw. I probably haven't—I still take on lots of young kids at badminton." For a conservative, if cautious, candidate like Ray Romanow, politics remains the only game in town.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GREGORY D. GREEN AND DALE EISLER IN REGINA

Contrasting challengers

Saskatchewan's two main opposition leaders are a study in contrast. Ted Giesler and Mayron, Liberal Leader Linda Haverstock is a slick-tongued, almost hypnotic orator who exudes confidence and charisma. Bill Boyd, the half-baked Conservative leader, is a self-styled "favour and small business" businessman who is raw speaking to small groups, but seems stiff and unpolished when addressing larger crowds. Different again, to be sure, but they share a number of all challenge: convincing voters that out of them, neither fits the mould of Ray Romanow, who should be forever of Saskatchewan.

Linda Haverstock, a 46-year-old native of West Carrot, Sask., is a stranger to personal challenges. Growing up at the age of 15, she dropped out of school to have the baby. Her marriage, at age 35, to her baby's father ended in divorce three years later, after which she returned to complete high school. Then, while studying psychology at the University of Saskatchewan, she suffered from rheumatoid arthritis and was temporarily confined to a wheelchair. Undaunted, she went on to earn a PhD in clinical psychology, all the while raising her daughter, Diane, now 38, and working part time in jobs ranging from swimming instructor to university lecturer. Haverstock remained bare, most recently in 1991 to her current husband, Harley Ober, an agricultural economist.

Haverstock, "people have to have a sense of purpose."



Before winning the Liberal leadership in 1985, she had established a successful practice counseling cash-strapped health-care providers who were experiencing stress. "My own life," she says, "tells me that people have to be able to have a sense of themselves and a sense of purpose."

Running in the riding of Saskatoon-Greenwood, Haverstock has a political career that spans 20 years. Born in Estevan, a town of 1,200 in western Saskatchewan, the commanding father of two spent most of his adult life leading the family firm in the area, and helping to run several hardware, cement and plumbing businesses. Since winning the Kinsmen riding for the Conservatives in 1981, Boyd has been a legend and curse by his political opponents. In November, 1994, he won the party leadership—in part because he had no less to offer than his predecessor, Saskatchewan Conservative Par-



Boyd meets the Tory party firmly to the right

Grant Devine's highly unpopular Conservative government, which was ousted from office in 1990 after one year in power (but winning his first election as leader) just eight months later, in low profile as a clear liability. Under Boyd's leadership, the Saskatchewan Conservative Par-

ty blossomed firmly to the right. An admirer of Alberta Premier Ralph Klein's deficit-slashing Tory government, Boyd is trying to distance his party from the record of the Devine government, which ran sizeable budget deficits. "I believe the whole political spectrum has shifted more and more to the right because of the realities of deficit and debt," he says. The Conservative leader promises to cut government spending by five per cent and to introduce legislation regarding balanced budgets. And to appease voter concern about politics, he has said he will fulfil his major campaign promises, Boyd says he will resign

Big Bang versus a Big Being

The four teenagers sitting around a blacktopped lab table in the Yale Secondary School in Abbotsford, B.C., are bright, articulate, confident—and diverse in their views. The issue they are debating is a large one. Indeed, it is arguably the biggest question of them all: How did life begin? Is evolution or by these creation, with a Big Bang or a Big Bang? Michael Pace, 18, is undecided. But Baptist Christian faith inclines him towards divine intervention at the same time, he says, as his growing knowledge of science propels him towards evolution. Roman Catholic Jennifer Maestas, 17, is a creationist; she rejects the idea that man shares ancestry with apes. Kristen Martin, 17, and raised an Anglican, and Karen Hunter, a 16-year-old of no particular religion, are firmly in the evolutionary camp. "What all four teenagers agree on, however, is that the long-running debate over how to teach the origins of life, which has pitted their school's board of trustees against the provincial minister of education, is a topic past its best," says Pace. "Personally, I don't see what the big deal is."

Critics of the Abbotsford school board, which oversees the education of 15,000 pupils in the five high schools in Abbotsford, 85 km east of Vancouver, have little trouble identifying the problem. "The issue," asserts independent video producer Scott Goodman, 45, the board's most outspoken challenger, "is preserving freedom of religion." In Goodman's view, a 13-year-old board policy that requires its teachers "to expose students to both divine creation and the evolutionary concepts of life's origins," is a strike taken by Christian extremists on the entire body of science and a gross violation of the principle that the state should neither mandate, nor serve, any particular religion. It is a view that British Columbia's education minister, Arthur Charlorenau, shares. Abbotsford's seven elected school board members, Charlorenau says, last week, "are trying to force teachers to put a religious theory on the same level as evolution in a science class." Declaring that to be intolerable in a secular and multicultural society, as well as illegal, Charlorenau acted on Goodman's complaint and gave the Abbotsford board until June 16 to rescind its policy. Declared Charlorenau, "There will be only one outcome to this every-finger-will-with-it."

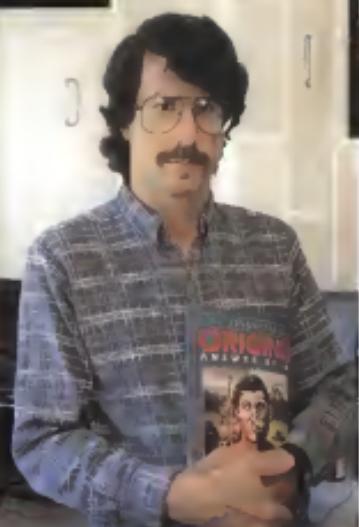
For its part, the board agrees with its local Yale Secondary students that the matter is being blown out of proportion. "The board has no interest in making this an issue," its chairman, John Sutherland, director of business management at Trinity Western University, a Christian teaching institution, told *Maclean's*. "No one in Abbotsford that I'm aware of is making an issue." Calling the apparent red blood between the minister and Abbotsford's school trustees a creation of the Vancouver media, Sutherland added, "We've been infected on us from the outside." He then cut short an interview, declining to answer any further questions.

But for some residents of the growing town and bedroom community, the issue is real indeed. "It is much, much bigger than biology," asserts Vicki Robison, president of the 1,000-member Abbotsford Teachers Association. According to Robison, evangelical Christians, supported by Abbotsford's many fundamentalist congregations, are trying to impose their moral views on their neighbours. "They take the high road road," she says, "as if their way is the right way and no one else's."

One person who strongly agrees is Lorraine Lantagne, president of the city's arts council. Lantagne became alarmed about the ascendancy of the religious right wing in her community in 1993

when school officials forbade her Heywood daughter, Katherine, to perform a short play she had written as part of a scholarship application entitled *My Mad Mad World*; it dealt with teenage sexuality, a subject the board considered inappropriate. Afterward, Lantagne says, Katherine received several obscenely wounded death threats from telephone callers who identified her a "spouse of Satan." Says Lantagne now: "We've got scoundrels of hate here. The whole confrontation amounts to an imposition of Christianity on the whole community. It disturbs me and frightens me."

The thorny debate over teaching creationism in school resurfaces in British Columbia



hosted 800 contestants (which runs its own private school), and a growing number of consumers of many fads and fackoos who daily risk the 80-kilometre drive on traffic-choked freeways to Vancouver for work. Asserts Yale Secondary's principal, George Peary, a managing administrator for the past nine years: "We are not all Elmer Gantry or creationists."

Still, for even a dozen of evangelical and fundamentalist churches, Bible colleges and flourishing private Christian schools regardless its reputation for deep religious faith, that image has been hampered by previous controversies. Earlier this year, critics accused the local library board of censorship after it attempted to ban a weekly gay and lesbian-oriented newspaper published in Vancouver from its shelves

and evidence that will support creationist theory, and there is some silent resistance against the theory of evolution in its entirety. And it should be taught." While Peary insists that she has no desire to impose her religious beliefs on students, she adds: "It is not my role as a school trustee to make sure that any reference to Christianity is deleted from discussion in school." With that in mind, Peary thinks it among the strongest backers of the Abbotsford board's teaching policy.

How that policy is applied in practice, however, seems both less provocative than many of its critics assert—and less innocent of religious overtones than Peary pretends. At Yale Secondary, biology teacher Trevor Fowler speaks his discussion of the origins of life, a part of the Grade 11 curriculum, by defining a distinction between knowing the material and accepting it. "I make it clear that no one has to believe in evolution, but they are expected to understand it," he says. Acknowledging that evolutionary theory has weaknesses, Fowler also tells his students that there are other ways about the beginnings of life, frequently citing both Abrahamic and Christian creationist beliefs as examples. "I assign it plain, honest theories of divine creation, because," he says, "I do not consider them to be scientific."

There is no question that Yale's students learn their biology. They consistently outscore outside students from most other B.C. schools in provincial examinations. While B.C. students in the exams averaged between 65 and 67 per cent in each of the past three academic years, the average mark for Yale Secondary students has been about 80 per cent. Concludes Fowler, a Presbyterian who says he learns towards evolutionary theory: "If I was teaching in a different district, I would handle it exactly as I have here." But when Fowler's students ask him for more information about the creationist argument, he does not discourage them. Instead, he refers them to reference materials in the school library and at the school district office, as well as encouraging them to seek out other sources. He even keeps several copies of one popular creationist text, *Of Pandas and People*, on his classroom bookshelf.

What students who explore that material encounter is clearly stuffy. One of a set of alarm bells among those who value the separation of church and state, not to mention science, Much of it is drawn from publications of the Colorado-based Institute for Creation Research, an explicitly evangelical organization that requires its employees to affirm annually their faith in fundamentalist dogma, including the infallibility of the Bible and the divine creation of the universe "in six literal days." The text is an acronym representing the creation stories of faiths other than Christianity.

Grotesquely, Peary acknowledged last week that the board's reference material "has to be reviewed, and we will do that." But the board, four of whose seven members are strongly identified with the religious right, will have to share it with those that do not. Charlorenau's ultimatum: A decision to rescind the controversial policy will only anger some evangelical supporters. But many parents and students plainly want the minister's view that religion and science should not be mixed—at least not in a school serving the prayers of many faiths. Notes student Jennifer Marion: "I believe in creationism, but if you want to learn about it and live it, they can teach it in Sunday School." Many of her fellow Christians, as well as others, are likely to say amen to that.

CHERYL WOOD in Abbotsford



Pace and Marion (right) in biology class. Goodman (left): the argument over the origins of life has pitted the school board against the education minister

Observed Cindy Filipsko, editor of the Yale-reviewed *Xtra*: What "I think the religious right has an agenda that is, basically, freedom for themselves and not for anybody else."

Polls substantiate the region's strong back-to-basics Christianity. In a survey of 130 local people taken in November, 1993, CV Marketing Research of Abbotsford found that 58 per cent of them believed the Bible to be a literal record of God's word—nearly twice as many as said the same thing in a nationwide poll commissioned earlier the same year by Maclean's. More recently, in a province-wide poll of 500 people, Vancouver's MacTread Research found that 55 per cent of residents surveyed in the lower Fraser Valley agreed that "government should do more to support basic Christian values"—compared with 35 per cent in metropolitan Vancouver.

Many local politicians share these views. School board chairman Sutherland, who gives Bible classes in his Memorable home, is also a right-to-life activist. Board vice-chairman Paul Chamberlain is another evangelical-minded Trinity Western faculty member. And the region's rockstar liberal MP, John van Dongen, rallied his party badly when he insisted, at the wake of his by-election victory in May 2, that he would seek to limit access to abortion, contrary to party policy. Van Dongen, a Roman Catholic who says he believes in the divine creation of the planets, Earth and life in six days, adds: "There are legitimate reasons to have it in the school system."

Scholar Gerda Peary could not agree more. A small businesswoman and former teacher with four grown children, as well as an evangelical Christian, Peary asserts: "There is scienti-

A civic face-lift

The tourism department literature promises beauty and art, a stroll through historic streets and the fog horn's romantic days. Early, though, downtown Halifax looks more like a work in progress than one of the nation's oldest and most-enduring cities. The smell of fresh-cut asphalt mingles with work crews cowed the sidewalks and the city streets to an incessant jackhammer beat. Come June 15, when the leaders of the world's seven biggest industrial democracies descend on the Nova Scotia capital for the annual G-7 economic summit, the facelift must be complete. So the street cleaners, sandblasters, painters and beautifiers labor at the night and through the ungodly darkness, bulldozing and polishing the 240-year-old city—so determined to put on its best face when the world comes calling.

Just what kind of face? Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has said he wants to throw a far less regal G-7 meeting than his been the ostentatious, in his words, "a Chevy summit." Total price tag for the Halifax event is \$88 million—including \$50 million from the federal government—which is less than the \$80 million first. But Italian government spent on the 1994 meeting in Naples. All the same, Jim Mack, a columnist with the Halifax Chronicle-Herald, has compared the make-over of downtown Halifax with the take from that Gregory Peck movie, *Catch-22*. The former lover, dressed along the roadways of 18th century rural Russia to convince the emperor that her down-at-the-heels peasants were prosperous and happy, Peck's character couldn't teach Halifax a thing about squatting on the dog," he wrote. In contrast, news that visiting journalists will dine on paella, hot dogs and coffee at the media village rather than the lavish feasts of past gatherings has left some officials worried that Halifax could be unfavorably remembered as the "Chevy summit."

For Haligonians, though, the memories are liable to be sweet. The day before the summit begins, wine houses will go up around a one-square-block security area surrounding the meeting site, a squat office building known locally as the Green Tent, now rechristened Sunbeam Place, and the nearby Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. But throughout the three-day event, organizers

Workers building foot
decks in downtown Halifax
seriously challenge



Halifax polishes its image in advance of the G-7 summit

are determined to minimize the disruption to downtown businesses. That pledge was underscored by an agreement to allow three restaurants with entrances within the security zone to stay open.

Of course, any inconvenience will likely be forgotten since the 3,000 delegates, 2,000 media representatives and 200 security personnel will be staying in evaluated 573 hotels across the local economy. And when the dust clears, Halifax will still have \$8 million worth of new harbor-front walkways, paved streets and spruced-up shopping and restaurant areas to show for the event—something local businesses may viewing as a first and vital imprint resembling the downtown.

Smart operators, meanwhile, have more

immediate things to think about: Finding rooms for 7,000 foreign visitors—as well as an overflow hotel for Helmut Kohl, the bumbling socialist, fourth German chancellor—was just the beginning. For the RCMP, which is spearheading what security co-ordinator Greg Terry Elliott terms the "biggest security event of the decade in Canada," the challenges have been endless. "The level of threat is low," Elliott maintains. Nonetheless, he is running a \$5- to \$7 million operation that involves the RCMP, local police, CBS, the Canadian Coast Guard and all branches of the armed forces. Aircraft will patrol the skies, sea-boats divers, a gauzy marine sniper and a Port Canada police vessel will keep an eye on the harbor—even the maritime routes are being sealed shut to protect against terrorist attacks.

Along with Chrétien's spend

as

he continues required participation money by organizers

of the event, the Italian government

is sending a delegation of 1,000 guests, borrowed from the Italian government

and the Italian business community

Banished to solitude

He will have only birds, animals and the wind to keep him company on his solitary granite island. Last September, Billy Taylor, a 25-year-old member of the La Ronge Indian band, was convicted of raping his former co-mo-law wife at her home in La Ronge, 240 km north of Prince Albert. The Crown wanted Taylor sentenced to four years in prison. But like an increasing number of aboriginal people across Canada, Taylor asked that a so-called native sentencing circle decide his fate. Last week in the La Ronge band office, Taylor took his seat in a circle along with 20 other people, including the victim, and family and friends of both. After discussing his case for nearly six hours, they agreed to banish Taylor to an uninhabited island near the community for one year. Other than the people who will deliver food to him each month, he is not expected to have any human contact. Maureen Glavin, the woman he raped, told Maclean's the punishment fits the crime. Said Glavin: "It won't be easy, but this way we will get what he needs."

The La Ronge band's decision to provide such a traditional-style punishment may help to rehabilitate Taylor. He is part of an encouraging experiment in native justice. Appalled by the high number of native people in jails across Canada, all 10 provinces and the territories have launched unique sentencing projects. The initiative gained momentum at a meeting of provincial justice ministers in Ottawa in March 1984, when they agreed on the importance of building bridges between the justice system and aboriginal traditions. In fact, since 1982 in Toronto, more than 200 native offenders have been diverted out of the criminal justice system by the Crown. Their sentences, which can include being ordered to perform community work, are then established by native elders. Said Jonathon Dawson, a director of an aboriginal law clinic in Toronto: "We have to break the street/jail/punishment cycle."

In Saskatchewan, nearly 100 cases have been brought before sentencing circles since 1980. While most involved minor offenses, many people convicted of serious crimes have gone through the new system. Last

A Saskatchewan ruling reflects a new trend in sentencing natives

Jane, a circle in Saskatoon sentenced bent Morna, a 24-year-old Métis man charged with robbery with violence, to 18 months in jail. The Crown, which wanted a four-year sentence for Morna, took the case to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. Its ruling, which is expected later this month, will for-



CLOSING "We won't be sorry, but this is why he will get sent to a Native place."

ever of the Native Law Center in Saskatoon, says that, historically, natives allowed the community to sentence individuals who had committed crimes. But the Canadian police system, he added, has badly failed native people. "When we send a young native to prison," says Henderson, "it doesn't resolve anything."

Taylor's case, however, stands as a major test of the emerging system—in part because of the seriousness of the charge against him. Following his conviction, Justice J. D. McLean of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench ruled the La Ronge band to consider Taylor's punishment. The band agreed, and McLean, along with lawyers for the defendant and Crown, joined the families and members of the La Ronge band to deliberate the case. At times, the discussion became heated because Taylor never admitted his guilt. Then in the end, instead of jail he was banished. "We're taking this case on as a test," says La Ronge band councillor Harry McLean.

"There is no alternative to jail," he says. Later this month, Taylor will be taken to the remote island, where he will live in a small wooden cabin. But unlike his incarceration, which forced an almost certain death when cut off from their communications, band members will deliver groceries to him each month. And Taylor, who will not be allowed TV or radio, and be prepared for the task. "This is spiritual," he said. "I will be able to see myself for who I really am."

Many aboriginal leaders see sentencing circles as the first step in creating a completely independent native justice system, including their own courts. Currently, the native circles are accommodated under the Criminal Code as a kind of pre-sentencing hearing, with the judge ultimately handing the final say. In Taylor's case, he will technically be sent to jail while he is on the island, and he could be sent to prison if he does not return there.

Still, the experiments do not always work. In 1983, for example, the British Columbia government stopped funding sentencing circles involving Salish natives of Vancouver Island when native women complained bitterly that the new system was dominated by male members of the bands. And John Duthie, the B.C. party's critic on native justice, says his party would support a completely independent system of aboriginal justice. But Henderson says tribes agreed by natives give them the right to control their own justice systems. And their cause could be helped dramatically if suitable terms Taylor into a peaceful corner.

the first time establish guidelines for judges handling the circles. And last week, in Taylor's case in jail, he told McLean that if his punishment helped change his life for the better, it could also advance the cause of traditional native justice. "There is a lot of pressure on me," said Taylor. "People are watching to see how it works out."

The sentencing groups take their names from ancient native healing circles. At New York-based Henderson, chief operating officer

TOM FENNELL



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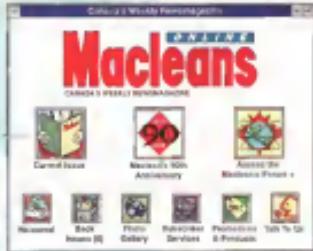


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Canada NOTES



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Where Stories Are Caught

BREAST CANCER SUIT

Montreal's St. Luc Hospital is being sued by the U.S. department of justice for damages incurred after one of the hospital's surgeons, Roger Pessos, submitted false data to a U.S.-funded study on breast cancer. The \$725,000 suit seeks to recover money spent sacking out the incomplete information from the clinical trials comparing two breast cancer therapies.

NEWFOUNDLAND REFERENDUM

Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells announced that he will hold a referendum on his government's plans to reduce the amount of control that churches exert over the province's school system. He set no date for the vote.

R RCMP TURBAN RULING

The Federal Court of Appeal in Ottawa unanimously upheld an Alberta policy that allows Mounties to wear turbans. The suit against the policy had been launched by an Alberta group led by three retired RCMP officers.

CARE CONTROVERSY

The federal government said that it will implement care across Canada after the oil spill—stating that the oil agency misused more than \$100,000 in donations intended for relief work in Somalia. Spokesmen for CARE Canada denied the report and said the agency will use the cash for relief.

CABIN BEATING TRIAL

Andre Lapointe, one of five Montreal police officers charged with aggravated assault against their fellow officer René Bouchard, testified that it was only to stop Bouchard from hurting himself that five police officers "intervened." Jim see Notkevich, who was up in a passenger zone, Lapointe told the court that "no excessive force was used."

MR. POPULARITY

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's approval rating climbed to a record 60 per cent in the latest Gallup poll, conducted May 8 to 12. The previous record-holder was John Diefenbaker, who registered a 54-per-cent approval rating in August, 1956.

RAGING INFERNO: A forest fire takes its toll 200 km north of Prince Albert, Sask., one of hundreds that consumed more than 250,000 acres of forest across Western Canada. In northern Alberta, where one firefighter died when the wind suddenly changed direction, the smoke from the biggest forest fire in a decade blocked the highway into Fort McMurray, a community of 35,000. Fires in northern British Columbia and Saskatchewan forced the evacuation of more than 800 people

Signs of support for gun control

A new public opinion poll showed that nearly two-thirds of Canadians continue to support federal Justice Minister Allan Rock's proposed gun-control legislation—even though eight in 10 respondents say they did not think it would reduce crime. In Angus Reid Group poll, conducted between May 24 and May 30, surveyed 1,200 Canadians. Of those, 1,196 said that they were gun owners in their households. Overall, 64 per cent of respondents supported the proposed legislation—which includes mandatory registration of seven million currently unrestricted firearms—while 32 per cent said they opposed it, and four per cent were unsure.

The survey also showed opinion divided along regional lines and between gun owners and those who do not own firearms. Regionally, Rock's bill was supported by 51 per cent of respondents in British Columbia, 51 per cent in

Alberta, 67 per cent in Saskatchewan/Manitoba, 64 per cent in Ontario, 79 per cent in Quebec, and 46 per cent in Atlantic Canada. The survey also found that 72 per cent of respondents from households without guns supported the federal proposal, but it was opposed by 59 per cent of those from households that owned guns.

Air India reward

The RCMP offered a \$1-million reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the June 23, 1985, bombing of Air India Flight 182, en route from London to the Indian coast, killing 319 people, 276 of them Canadians. No one has been charged in the bombing, which police have long believed that it was the work of Sikh extremists working on behalf of the Pakistanis who were negotiating a settlement with the Sikh nation to become part of India. The investigation of the terrorist crime took two days before a meeting between Solicitor General Herb Gray and relatives of the Air India victims, who are demanding a public inquiry into the bombing.

HOLDING THE WORLD HOSTAGE

Memorial service for French peacekeeper killed on duty in Bosnian quagmire

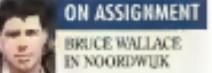
The Bosnian crisis prompts threats from NATO

T hey buried their dead before dawn in Tuzla last week in the central Bosnian "safe area," where 70 Muslim civilians had been slaughtered by Bosnian Serb artillery fire a few days earlier. Funerals took place before the sun came up as a protest against more shelling from the gunners surrounding them. The threat may have been real, but the bite of the Bosnian Muslims was almost as afterthought for the international community. Instead, Canada and its allies leaped at the embarrassing announcement of 277 United Nations peacekeepers taken hostage by the Bosnian Serbs in retaliation for NATO air strikes on their positions. And amid the diplomatic parlays and emergency debates, political leaders struggled to do something—anything—to pull the Balkans' side into further chaos.

Thus it was Bosnian Serb officials and freed peacekeepers at will and despite all previous agreements with the United Nations and the West. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić threatened to turn Bosnian

into "a butcher shop" if any attempt was made to free the hostages by force. What is more, the Bosnian Serbs courted a direct confrontation with the United States by shooting down a patrolling U.S. F-16 fighter plane, touching off a massive air and sea search operation for the missing pilot. That increased the prospects of greater U.S. involvement in the besieged Sarajevo airfield, although a supposed unlikely Washington would content ground troops.

The other, more pressing task was to secure the release of all the hostages. By the weekend, Bosnian Serbs had delivered 220 of the captured peacekeepers, including all of the 32 detained Croatians, out of the battle zone, to the Serbian capital of Belgrade. Late Saturday they flew in the aircraft of the organization's headquarters. But most of the remaining 257 were still scattered in small groups across Bosnia and UN commanders did not even know the exact whereabouts of many of them. Serbian Peafowl Stjepan Mihalović praised French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in a telephone call that the others would be



ON ASSIGNMENT
BRUCE WALLACE
IN NOORDWIJK

Zagreb, Croatia, the UN operation's headquarters. But most of the remaining 257 were still scattered in small groups across Bosnia and UN commanders did not even know the exact whereabouts of many of them. Serbian Peafowl Stjepan Mihalović praised French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in a telephone call that the others would be

released "very quickly." Bosnian Serb officials, however, were saying they wanted to see a goodwill gesture from the West before letting them go.

Complicating matters, the Bosnian Serbs stole six white-painted UN trucks and 27 of the peacekeepers' armored vehicles, making it easier for them to maneuver with impunity. They also sent a death threat by fax to Alexander Lissitsky, a Russian spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), who had accused the Bosnian Serbs of harboring like "termites."

The Bosnian Serbs' willingness to take UN soldiers hostage—and to dole them in unarmored trucks and other potential military targets—effortlessly took air strikes out of the West's arsenal. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher however insisted that no power "minimized an option." But no one else had the stomach to see what the Bosnian Serbs would do if the bombers flew again. "Every time there are any air strikes, there is retaliation," said Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet, who adopted a policy of speaking softly and carrying a small stick at a NATO meeting in Noordwijk, Netherlands, last week.

Former British and French governments used the occasion to lob their peacekeeping forces by sending more soldiers to the region, accompanied by tank, artillery pieces and tanks. On the weekend, 5500 and European defense sources reported a Paris agreed to establish a "Yankee" rotation of 9000 to 10,000 troops, primarily British and French, to go to a 100-kilometer perimeter around Sarajevo. As for potential U.S. intervention, that became a provision of several NATO bombing raids. Defense Secretary William Perry ruled out the use of American forces in Bosnia, except as a last resort in any event of an "unprovoked" attack. That was in line with comments from President Bill Clinton, who issued early in the week of possible US troop involvement, but by week's end was taking a more cautious approach.

For Canadian part, Ouellet said he was giving his full-throated support. "We are hoping that those detainees will be released," he said.

"We ask the Serbs to release them," Ouellet stressed. Ottawa would not send reinforcements to the region—or was it planning to participate in any dramatic rescue attempt? "We don't want to encourage a process that could lead to a loss of life," he said.

The Canadian hostage dilemma began on May 28, when, in retaliation for NATO air strikes, Serbs captured and clashed 22-year-old Capt. Patrick Birchard to a point in an assassination during early April. He died of his injuries. His body was recovered by a unit of the Bosnian Serb army, to act as a human shield. Capt. Ryan Williams, 31, of Trenton, Ont., was also confined to his quarters by Serbian forces on the outskirts of Sarajevo. By June 1, another 41 Canadians were being held in a school gymnasium at the town of Bijeljina, 15 km northwest of Sarajevo, while 25 peacekeepers were being allowed to continue their duties—but under Bosnian Serb military protection—at three observation posts and a checkpoint on the Serbo-Bosnian line at the Bosna River, northeast of Sarajevo.

Both Chief of Defense Staff John de Chastelain and Defense Minister David Collister stressed last week that defense department officials had been in contact with the Canadian hostage and that they seemed to be in an immediate finger-flick. Still, the crisis required a heated debate about Canada's role in the former Yugoslavia. Ten Canadian

peacekeepers have been killed and more than 50 others seriously injured since the civil war began in 1992. And during an emergency House of Commons debate last week, Reform party Leader Preston Manning called for an immediate pullout from Bosnia. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien countered that his government remained fully committed to the mission, while leaving tougher UN rules of engagement that would discourage acts of aggression against prisoners. "Millions of people living in that region are very grateful that Canadian people are there when they are needed to save lives," the Prime Minister said.

But Canada did not share the more bellicose sentiment of its allies just one minor difference in a clearly confused, discordant international response to the crisis. Canada's soldiers first opened the humanitarian lifeline to Sarajevo in 1992, is no longer a major player in the Balkan mess, and Canadian officials say that was Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's line. Foreign affairs department polling has shown a steady dip in popular support for the Bosnian mission, and Chrétien appears determined to avoid war rhetoric, closer to a unilateral withdrawal before he hosts the G-7 summit this weekend in Halifax. "Our intentions are to be good peacekeepers and not to play the muscle," said one Canadian official in Europe. "We are back to a world of big power politics, and that is not what it's about like Canada. We are just another low-profile contributor now, not one to enforce our opinion."

The Chrétien government's determination to keep a low profile was apparent during the Sunday Natoce NATO press briefing. In fact, before receiving来自 Canadian reporters on the second day of the session, Chrétien sent word through his staff that he did not even want to answer questions from journalists. The press corps later learned, but his tone remained cordiality towards those who had asked Canadian troops to leave. Only three months ago Ottawa handed Spanish falangist crews who'd fired into the sky military uniforms "professional criminals" and "in rats," and authorized a ban on the thousands of their bows. But when asked if he would characterize the Bosnian Serbs as "the bad guys" for using peacekeepers as human shields, Chrétien depositionality reaffirmed Ottawa's need to take sides in the Bosnian war. "No," he said. "It is not enhancing any cause or saying we are the good guys and they are the bad guys."

Others were less effusive. The Contact Group—composed of representatives of the United States, Germany, France, Britain and Russia, which had agreed to mediate a diplomatic solution to the war, and an emergency session in The Hague and warned that Bosnian Serb leaders would be held "personally accountable" for the hostages' safety. And after weeks of speculation that French troops might pull out of Bosnia entirely, recently elected President Jacques Chirac and a naval task force to the Atlantic Sea, and floated the idea of using force to punch through the Bosnian Serb siege of Sarajevo.

Western leaders look past to think that sending a major reinforcement force to Bosnia was not simply a simple screen to get enough firepower onto place to cover a tiny pallid. They also rejected a 40-page report issued last week by UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali that argued for scaling down UNPROFOR's size and mandate. If anything, the Brits and French want to take a tougher line, said Bourne-Taylor, they should do it on their own. But as evidence over events in Bosnia is declining, and UNPROFOR is now little more than a fig leaf for the big powers, Bosnia has clearly become a stamping ground for their clashing interests. American insistence that the besieged Bosnian government, Russian support for their Serb leaders, and German backing for their traditional Croatian allies. History is not an academic exercise in the Balkans—and the combatants, especially the Serbs, are clearly exploit those differences.

There was irony in the fact that NATO and Russian foreign ministers took their big-power policies to a Dutch court last week. It was a 12th-century Dutch jurist, Hugo Grotius, the father of modern international law, who outlined the differences between "just" and "unjust" conflicts,



Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet

and prepared plans because for those who waged "internal wars." The parties who assembled along a Dutch benschot to debate the Bosnian conflict were the same ones who avoided the spirit of Geneva to try back legal recognition of Kuwait in 1991. Since that one brief moment, however, the Machiavellian instinct has returned to international politics with a vengeance, underscoring the fact that competing national interests leave little room for consensus about morality.

In that respect, the Bosnian dilemma represents a crossroads. It asks whether the international community will continue trying to extend the rule of law, or whether the world will regress into medieval authority in which marauding warlords call the shots. "There are some sophisticates in the British Foreign Office who believe that the next calamity of this conflict will be international law itself," says John Keegan, widely regarded as Britain's leading military historian.

Just across town from the site of the Contact Group's meeting in The Hague is the United Nations' best hope for upholding the rule of law in Bosnia, which is investigating claims that Serbian, Muslim and Croatian soldiers broke international conventions during the bloody breakup of the former Yugoslavia. The tribunal has already filed charges against 22 Serbs, most of them high-ranking officers. But Festina Bleuet, the tribunal's Australian deputy prosecutor, acknowledges that the court's credibility depends on it being able to bring charges against all leaders who ordered or failed to stop the commission of war crimes.

In fact, Bleuet says charges will be laid within months against Karadzic and his senior military allies, Gen. Ratko Mladić, whose wood effectively made the two Bosnian Serb leaders presences of



French soldiers escort civilians in Sarajevo; rapid reaction

that will decline; peacekeepers would be subject to arrest if they left Bosnia. The prospect of such judgments enrages the Bosnian Serbs. "The Bosnian Serbs regard themselves as good people, as intelligent, educated Europeans who are entering a new deal," says Keegan. "Like the Irish, they are a people who believe that history has dealt them a dire deal, and they violently object to their leaders being treated as war criminals."

Some observers say that the war crimes indictments have already hardened Bosnian Serb attitudes, and contributed to a recent increase in shelling. Certainly, the tribunal's hand for war criminals is making the Contact Group's diplomatic task harder. Their strategy is aimed at splitting Serbia's Milosević from the Bosnian Serbs by offering him lift economic sanctions against Serbia, imposed when we broke out in the Balkans in 1992, in return for the president of Bosnia and his neighbors. But Milosević, too, risks being charged as a war criminal. It was his well-documented plan for a Greater Serbia, after all, which sparked the last Balkan war.

Whether ending Milosević's pariah status will reduce the fighting in Bosnia is an uncertain scenario, at best. Unwilling to instigate the kind of international consensus for action that rolled back Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, the international community has set itself for a muddling through in Bosnia, for risking war without a corresponding willingness to end it, for compensating on principle in a desperate attempt to end a deal with a possible war criminal that is regard even with the exceptional hostage-taking and sporadic firefights from all sides. Last week was much like any other in the lengthening history of this dirty war. □

A Canadian perspective

Defence Minister David Collenette spoke to MacLean's as he prepared to depart last Friday for meetings in Paris and Brussels with NATO and European Union defence ministers to discuss the escalating Bosnian conflict.

MacLean's: While other nations talk about force if necessary, Canada talks about negotiation. Other nations demand the release of hostages, so will you?

Collenette: No, we've demanded. We've condemned these actions—we've called it. What more can you do in terms of language?

MacLean's: Would you call the Serbs terrorists, an ethnic cleansing?

Collenette: I'm not going to get into who's right and who's wrong. The fact of the matter is that they have used tactics which go

beyond anything acceptable as war. But we feel that the way to get the hostages out is by trying to have a diplomatic settlement.

MacLean's: What is the most compelling reason to keep Canadian peacekeepers in Bosnia?

Collenette: There are a lot of cynics around who say we are part of the problem, that we should just let them fight it out. What cost to humanity? We've got to get these people back to the table.

MacLean's: You were once from an embassy that said Canada must be part of the Contact Group, the five-country committee that is responsible for finding a diplomatic solution to the conflict. Yet Foreign Minister André Ouellet now says that Canada does not want to be part of the group. What is the government's position?

Collenette: A year ago, we made the case that we wanted to be part of it. It didn't happen. So let's not cry over spilled milk. Since then, we've been getting our views across,

MacLean's: Would Canada veto any move to force its leaders to flee?

Collenette: It wouldn't come to that. Look, don't put us in the corner of discussions. We express our views and then a compromise emerges. We're there 100 per cent with our NATO allies. We just bring a different perspective.

MacLean's: Do Canadians care about this conflict?

Collenette: The more people see their own people chained to poles, the more they are aware. They were aware three years ago, in Bosnia and Croatia, when people were hacked to death and tortured, when there were mass graves and ethnic cleansing. By and large, that has stopped because of the UN presence. We're going through a rough patch now. I'm not prepared to say we should throw in the towel. There are others who say, well, just send in more troops and blast everybody to hell. I don't think that we are at that stage.



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MacLean's:

A soldier's story

A Canadian recalls his detentions in Bosnia

During a seven-month tour of duty or the former Yugoslavia, Sgt. Michel Barrette was detained by the Bosnian Serbs three times, for a total of six days. A serving leader in the Royal 22e Régiment (The Van Doos), based at Valcartier, Que., Barrette served in the region from November 1992 to May 1994 and is returning to where they left off September 8, 22, after a month with two children. Below, speak about his experiences with Maclean's Ottawa bureau chief Michael Lake-Parker.

The first I arrived in Sarajevo, I was scared because there were snipers all around. I wrote a letter to my family telling them I didn't think I would make it. However, when we got to Vinkovci [a UN observation post], the Serbs surrounded us with mortars fire. My God, it was crazy. I never, never felt safe.

There weren't many people who wanted to serve in the Serb army, so they sent the Van Doos because the Serbs respected us. After an attack on a Serb hospital in Vinkovci, we showed up and cleaned the place. Everybody was sick, people were lying in everywhere. We were supposed to leave, since we finished, but I remained and we ended up staying for another two months to help out. Things like that made the Serbs respect us. Whenever they tried to provoke us, we would put our weapons down and talk. The Serbs were armed and would say, "We're not used to soldiers acting like that."

In December, 1993 Lt. Gen. [Michael] Basie [the British commander of UN forces at the time] and he was tired of Serb heavy weapons causing trouble in our area, and he sent the Canadians to take the weapons. That's when we were taken hostage for the first time. The Serbs surrounded us, saying that everybody had better give them their weapons or they would kill. Then they said that if we didn't give it to them, they would drag mortars on our heads. We received orders to move into the hills. As soon as we did, the Serbs patrolled around us and took us to hostage. They can't understand cause to me and said, "Sorry, Mike, but we don't like the way you're training us." There were 16 of us. He said well probably

he released the next day and that we shouldn't be scared, but we were adopted by the other Serbs for showing ourselves to be human so easily. They released us three days later, after making their point.

The Serbs, Muslims and Croats play the same games. The Muslim took hostages in



Barrette. "My God, it was crazy. I never, never felt safe."

Vinkovci—they didn't want us to leave because then they would be killed by the Serbs. The Serbs took us to protect them from NATO air raid. And the Croats took us in Serbia because they feared being killed by the Serbs. It's a very curious

At first when we were detained, we were frightened, but I quickly grew to know that the Serbs weren't going to harm us. The more important problem was the UNPRO-

bombing. We were warned that bombs would be dropped on us.

In fact, the Serbs treated us pretty well. My guys didn't like the food, so we asked to bring in some Canadian food. The Serbs said "No problem." The French and British hostages had not yet gotten their food brought in, but we had a better relationship. We also spent a lot of time chatting with the Serb commander. We talked about the war and tried to understand each other's points. We never disagreed with them.

The biggest problem was that so many of the Bosnian Serb soldiers were drunk. They were drunk through the night, and drank in the morning. When you go to talk to these people you must take some alcohol or nobody will talk to you. So everybody is drunk and for the Serb commanders it isn't rare. It's not like the Canadian or British army. They are more serious and lots of soldiers don't want the war to stop because when it stops they have nothing to do.

My response to NATO air strikes is, "No, no, no" [every time a buzzard] I have to run to my wife and say "Tomorrow we're going to have hostages." We should stop the aircraft now, apply diplomatic pressure and get our guys released. It was very stupid to have the air strikes on May 25 and 26. The Americans may have bombing, but remember that they don't have any tanks on the ground. The only way we can save things is by talking not with weapons.

When I saw that television footage of Capt. [Patrick] Blanche [executed] I could say to my family, "Don't be nervous." The Serbs did it for TV, and everybody knows that. I doubt he's being held like that [I had eaten] in a pole all the time. They wanted to make a point. This is a weapon of mass. The Serbs are not soft—they're fighting a war. I don't think it's a good way, but it has worked for them.

When I came home to return to Canada, I told my commander I wanted to go and say goodbye to some of the Serbs. He said no, because he was worried about us being taken hostage again. I wish I could have said goodbye to all the Serb commander who hosted us as well. I was disappointed.

To be honest, the first month I came home I cried all the time. I don't know why, exactly. After that, I talked to my friends and family about the children and the old people I saw. In my section, one guy left without his mother actually tried to kill himself and a friend had his mother leave him. We have problems, but I'll be glad to get back there in September. I feel my place is in Bosnia, helping the people."



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BELING UNDER FIRE

Sentimental Chinese dissidents imprisoned for their role in the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests appealed to Beijing for better jail conditions and for freedom. The appeal was signed by Yu Zhunai, an activist sentenced to life in prison for throwing eggs at a portrait of Mao Tse-tung. The human-rights group Amnesty International, meanwhile, condemned China for a recent crackdown on political troublemakers in advance of the sixth anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre on June 4.

RUSSIAN RESIGNATION

After a prolonged feud with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, Gen. Alexander Labed, an outspoken critic of Moscow's ongoing war with separatist Chechnya, resigned as commander of the country's 14th army, based in the breakaway Trans-Dniester region of Moldova. Labed's decision fuelled speculation that the popular general might challenge Boris Yeltsin for the Russian presidency in elections to be held next July.

HISTORIC VISIT

Princess Diana threw eggs at Prince Charles during the first official visit to Ireland by a member of the British Royal Family since the Republic gained independence in 1922. While the heir to the throne was warmly received by Irish people, critics attacked his ceremonial leadership of a British paratrooper regiment that killed 14 demonstrators in Northern Ireland in 1972.

SMOKING AND BREAST CANCER

A Danish study found that women who smoke for more than 20 years are 60 per cent more likely than non-smokers to develop breast cancer. The findings, based on a study of 3,240 women, did not find an increased risk of breast cancer among women who smoked for 20 years or less.

WARTIME COMPENSATION

Austria's parliament voted to pay compensation to an estimated 30,000 people persecuted during Adolf Hitler's Nazi rule. Vienna has established a \$60-million fund for war refugees and those imprisoned in concentration camps because they were Jews, Communists or homosexuals.

DISSIDENT RELEASED

The Cuban government released leading dissident Yedraida Restante from jail. Restante, a journalist arrested in 1992 to 10 years in prison for rebellion, seemed to come out of fight for democracy and human rights on the Cuban exiles' side.



HOPE AMID THE RUINS: Rescuers work to save a six-year-old girl to safety after the worst earthquake in Russian history leveled Betshegorsk, a tiny oil town in the country's far east. More than 1,000 bodies were pulled from the rubble last week, and Russian officials expected the death toll from the quake, which hit Sakhalin Island on May 28, to surpass 2,000. Rescuers with sniffer dogs mounted a round-the-clock search in the wreckage of several collapsed multi-story buildings.

Graphic evidence

In Los Angeles, prosecutors in the trial of O.J. Simpson wrapped up the trial phase of their case with a sombering series of months of evidence that they claim link the former football great directly to the murder of his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman. Defense lawyer Barry Scheck, meanwhile, maintained that the results should be ignored. He argued that the blood was either planted by detectives in a plot to incriminate Simpson, or was really contaminated by sludge collection and storage that the tests proved inaccurate.

Simpson's defense team had strongly objected to the introduction of the pictures, taken during autopsies on the bodies, on the grounds that they served no useful purpose other than to "stick it" in the jurors' faces and prejudice them against the defendant.

Tourism scandal

The German government promised to increase its tourism office in New York City in the wake of a series of scandals—ones of which focused on a directive to discourage "black, Jews, Hispanics and Asians" from visiting Germany. One writer has been dismissed for disseminating documents concerning the holocaust. The public relations nightmare also includes lawsuits totaling about \$30 million from employees who claim to have been victims of sexual and racial discrimination.

Champagne flowed freely at the annual meeting of Seagram Co. Ltd., last week in New York, at a downtown hotel in Manhattan. A standing-room-only crowd of more than 600 shareholders showed up to enjoy one of the year's most colorful meetings—an open bar stocked with Seagram brands like Chivas Regal, scotches, Malibu rum and Tropical orange juice. If the draw was not just as a bar 'n' roll that's higher than normal, Seagram's top brass have built their culture on bling. In April, the company sold its highly profitable stake in the chairman-owned company F. T. de Pinto & Nirocco Inc. for \$11.5 billion, and bought 80 per cent of Hollywood entertainment giant MCA Inc. for \$7.8 billion. Investors, who appeared both amused and intrigued by the showy shenanigans, turned out to learn more about what any new chief executive Edgar Bronfman Jr. and his father, Seagram chairman Edgar Bronfman, describe as a "strategic transformation" of the drinking conglomerate. At one point, shareholder George Tait of Macleod questioned the younger Bronfman about the wisdom of selling off Pinto, which he described as a "ship in a sink harbor." His later, cool, nonchalant response to Seagram's new course, "Media," Tait said, "That's the future. The mind loves seeking more information. It's becoming the biggest industry."

For his part, Bronfman said that a detailed financial review at MCA was better than expected. "We fact," said the 40-year-old Bronfman on his first anniversary as chief executive, post-acquisition financial analysis show that "the businesses we bought are

**Edgar
Bronfman Jr.
says MCA
will boost
Seagram profits**

ACTION MOVIES

even more valuable than we believed them to be." He predicted that initially MCA will provide about one-third of Seagram's total profits. But that is significantly less than the profit contribution made by De Pinto, which amounted to about 85 per cent of Seagram's \$11.5 billion net income last year. As for critics who point to other investors who have joined in their longing for entertainment, Bronfman said, "I see this as a very low-risk investment." Bronfman says that by exchanging Seagram's du Peck holding for MCA, the company is positioned to use one of the fastest-growing industries.

Although other big investors have been held by the entertainment industry's potential, they have frequently earned erratic and sometimes disappointing returns. Because

of that unenviable track record, Seagram's share price suffered when the two transactions were first announced. Feeding the loss of du Peck's reliable—albeit flat-profit contribution to Seagram, where the core beverage business has matured, the company's share price plunged by 58 to \$86. Since then, however, the share price has rebounded some of that loss, climbing to \$91 at the end of last week.

The bleak financial state of MCA is not immediately apparent because Matsushita did not release the company's financial results. But according to an assessment by the New York City investment firm Wasserstein, Freida, Selzer Securities Inc., which was distributed by Seagram at the annual meeting, MCA's most profitable segment is its movie division, which includes Geffen Records, MCA Records and an extensive music library. Its earnings

operates profitably—offered Bronfman the opportunity to make a bid on friendly terms. As a result, Bronfman says, Seagram acquired MCA at a favorable price. "Anybody who takes the time to understand the industry in which we invested, the company that we bought and the price that we paid," said Bronfman, "will understand that this is an outstanding deal."

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are estimated at \$200 million before interest, taxes and depreciation. Universal Pictures, MCA's movie studio, which comes with a library of 2,600 motion pictures—including *Annie Park* and *ET*, the two largest-grossing movies ever made, is the best gross profitable division with earnings of about \$170 million. The movie division is closely followed by its Universal Studios theme park in Hollywood, Calif., and Orlando, Fla., which are derived from Universal movies and contribute about \$130 million. Other assets include cable networks, book publishing, retail products and a movie theater chain.

Other entertainment companies are more cautious in assessing MCA's prospects. Dennis McNamee of Josephson Lyon & Ross Inc. in New York says that there is still not enough detailed information available on MCA's finances to assess the deal. On the subject of the deals prior to tag, he added, "Unless [MCA] did \$550 million in operating income last

year, then \$7.8 billion looks like a pretty expensive proposition." The only reason for paying that much, and Matsushita, would be that Seagram believes it can significantly improve MCA's performance by making significant changes. For her part, Jennifer Red Colton, entertainment analyst with Merrill Lynch Inc. in New York, says that MCA "has had a very good track record" and that its highly profitable stable in the chairman-owned company F. T. de Pinto & Nirocco Inc. for \$11.5 billion, and bought 80 per cent of Hollywood entertainment giant MCA Inc. for \$7.8 billion. Investors, who appeared both amused and intrigued by the showy shenanigans, turned out to learn more about what any new chief executive Edgar Bronfman Jr. and his father, Seagram chairman Edgar Bronfman, describe as a "strategic transformation" of the drinking conglomerate. At one point, shareholder George Tait of Macleod questioned the younger Bronfman about the wisdom of selling off Pinto, which he described as a "ship in a sink harbor." His later, cool, nonchalant response to Seagram's new course, "Media," Tait said, "That's the future. The mind loves seeking more information. It's becoming the biggest industry."

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Castan in Waterworld: questionable distinction of being the most expensive movie ever produced

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FERNANDA DIAZ-GOMEZ

Glittering prospects

Diamond finds create a mini-boom in the North

In a recent investment report, diamond industry analyst Peter Miller of London, Ont., declared: "The diamond market is strong while ours remains softening and share of the market up to this year, uncertainty, the variety of sources." Over the next few months, however, increasing caution, rather than uncertainty, will help determine the fate of a proposal to launch Canada's first diamond mine. The diamond miners here, which have more than \$500,000 invested every year and fall through the remote Lac de Gras region of the Northwest Territories, are at a standstill and find that experts say it will take more than just a large amount of the proposed sites in the next century. The evidence, generated by the 1996 discovery, has launched a few of the world's top mining companies to a remarkable stretch of land, 200 km north of Yellowknife. But before mining begins—an initiative that could eventually create hundreds of jobs—the proposed mine must pass a rigorous environmental assessment process. Still, a majority of people in the Territories, where an employment is 17 per cent, generally support the mine's development as long as proper safeguards are in place to protect the region's fragile environment. "For the last two years I thought it was all a boondoggle," says Yellowknife Mayor Dave Lord. "That's legitimate. I'm hyper-real certain there will be at least one diamond mine here by the end of the century."

The man credited with setting off Canada's diamond rush in the early 1990s is geologist Chuck Taylor, who, after 10 years of prospecting in the area, found a micro-diamond near Paul Lake, just northwest of Lac de Gras. The 1990 discovery by Taylor, now chairman of De Mer Minerals Ltd., of Yellowknife, B.C., a small, exploration-oriented mining company, proved that diamonds can be found in Canada in rock formations known as kimberlites which, in the Northwest Territories, are often found at the bottom of round, deep lakes. Since then several other junior mining companies have also found diamond-bearing Kimberlites at other sites in the Territories as well as in Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec. And while the diamond search on Canada's East Coast has failed to turn up the precious stones, it has resulted in the discovery of one of the most important Canadian nickel and copper deposits over the past 25 years, around Voisey Bay, Labrador.

After his find, Taylor, who pursued his own unconventional theory about where diamonds

were present in the project summary it has provided to the environmental assessment panel. "Results compare favorably with those at other diamond mines in the world," the document states. The company estimates that its mine would provide 650 jobs and operate for about 25 years.

But not before Ottawa, which has primary responsibility for natural resources and the environment in the Territories, is satisfied that the carbon will not be easily disturbed. To that end, DEP promises to develop the site carefully. Hearings on its proposals could begin as early as this fall, with a decision on whether the project can proceed to follow as soon as early next year.

Despite the miners' ongoing Canadian first claim (mine the stock market)—after a flurry of excitement in 1992 and 1993—this largely cooled down—diamond-related investments. Last August, the an-



Taylor (left) with geological forecaster modeling a commercial field

tar, he says that auto dealerships, insurance sales agents and businesses that support mining exploration, such as aircraft rental companies, report that their businesses are flattening. "Three or four years ago, this city was growing past a long recession," he says. "But it didn't happen. Diamonds made the difference between a recession and economic growth." In the longer term, he says, analysts can't make exact diamond discoveries, so new ones will open up that release major regions of the market.

To date, only De Mer has made the decision to open a mine. It says that it has discovered 27 diamond-bearing kimberlites on its Lac de Gras property and has selected five, each under a lease, as its first production sites. Still, 100 or so carat diamonds in describing the

assessment of poor drilling results by Alter at its Lac de Gras site and by the world's leading diamond company De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd., of South Africa, at an implementation rate in Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories triggered a crash in the price of diamond consumers' share prices. De Mer shares fell 47 to 80 from a high of \$30 in early 1994 and Alter shares have fallen to \$8 from a high of \$12. "The euphoria of 1992 and 1993 has now given way to a different scenario," says diamond analyst Miller in a recent report. "Consequently, there is now some real value in the market." As far as the impact of this completely new supply of diamonds as jewels in the world market, Miller believes that the demand—fuelled by human vanity—will easily keep pace.

PATRICK DALLAGLIO

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Bar in the Queen's Park office

BUSINESS

Troubled Ontario companies can likely no longer look to the province for aid

The end of interventionism

The bright corner office of Ontario's premier in the Queen's Park legislative building is decked with several mementoes of the New Democratic Party's interventionist economic philosophy. On Bob Rae's credenza are two bright white plastic models of Canadian Beaufighter jet fighters, a \$300-million price tag that was pasted and stifted at Toronto by the de Havilland division of Bombardier Inc. Rae is proud of these two mementoes from de Havilland, in which Ontario taxpayers took a \$4-billion stake in 1992. They represent just one of several companies that were saved from financial collapse by the direct investment of his government. Just a year after he was elected as premier in September, 1990, Rae also bailed out Sparke Power and Paper Co. in Kapuskasing, South St. Marie-based Algoma Steel Corp. (al) and, in the past year, Ontario Blue Industries Inc. in Mississauga. The steady flow of support of the premier's office, however, will probably not continue these

years because—or add new ones to the collection. Both the Liberal and Progressive Conservative parties—which have coexisted for more than 10 years in provincial politics—have firmly pledged to steer clear of such entanglements, despite their apparent recent success. And according to Toronto's York University economist professor Fred Loder, that commitment is positive news. "Those rescues were born out of panic, not policy," he says. "In Rae's case, he's been lucky. But I am willing to bet that not all luck will last forever."

Even liberal environmental and trade critic Monte Smiley, a former provincial minister of industry, trade and technology, agrees that Rae's use of public funds—through grants, loan guarantees or interest-free loans—isn't suited well to three out of the four rescue operations. Only the province's \$100-million investment in Ontario Blue Industries Inc., was, says Smiley,

"total disaster." But, he points out, the other interventions succeeded in large part because of a turnaround in the provincial economy accompanied by an upturn in the commodity and stock markets. Deafening losses in aluminum and steel prices have done much to share up the finances at both Sparke Power and Algoma Steel. Newsprint prices have risen from \$680 to \$885 a ton in 18 months, and renewed demand for steel has sent its price from \$329 to \$345 a ton since the depths of the recession in 1990. The jury is still out on de Havilland, where Montreal-based Bombardier is scouting for signs of interest in a new, bigger version of its Dash 8 aircraft before committing to expanding the Toronto company, in which it holds a 25-per-cent stake.

When Rae decided to tackle Algoma's problems in 1992, the company was ground down by high debt, an aging inefficient plant and depressed demand for its steel pipe and

iron rods. It was on the verge of insolvency, a collapse that would have pushed Sud Ste. Marie's unemployment rate to 30 per cent. The province contributed \$10 million to bank-loan guarantees and about \$17 million in early retirement benefits to restructure the steelmaker's workforce.

In exchange, the wage and benefit concessions of about \$33 on the average hourly wage of \$15.70, which helped make the company more competitive, the restructuring resulted in a 60-per-cent cut in the company going to Algoma's 5,300 workers—down from more than 8,000 employees prior to the restructuring. The remaining 10 per cent was actually owned by Algoma's bankers, which have since sold their shares on the open market. The efficiency of the new Algoma and the rise in steel prices meant that workers and bankers alike have been rewarded. The steel mill closed, Sparke Power "is making just a bit of money," a sharp 10.8-per-cent profit in 1994 on sales of \$1.1 billion.

Now, a refinancing that will see mortgage rates and \$150 million in new shares sold in the public is expected to back the construction of a \$600-million cold-rolling unit that will produce

thinner rolls. It won't be long before Sparke's earnings will be positive again, says Loder, who estimates that the city of Sud Ste. Marie would have witnessed普遍 unemployment and joblessness if the steel mill had closed. Sparke's "I acknowledge the government's role, it's a positive check on us," he says. "But there are other policies that we disagree on." And in the political arena, he adds, "we've openly backed the Liberals." He adds: "If you go down to the factory gate, you'll find some of the employees are saying Bob Rae is making just a bit to make a profit for Algoma, and not enough credit is being given to the shareholders' compensation."

A similar economic success story has played out in Kapuskasing. There, Rae put together a plan that saw Ontario Hydro agree to a \$14-million loan to Sparke Falls, along with 10 years of low power. As well, Ontario Hydro agreed to purchase Sparke Falls' generating plant for \$142 million. That money was redeployed by employees to buy Sparke Falls from its former owners, Kimberley Clark Corp. of Duluth and The New York Times Co. of New York City. The arrangement with Hydro left the government on the hook if the power plant failed an environmental assessment. But the environmental approval was eventually given and, currently, 50 per cent of Sparke Falls is owned by its 1,000 workers. Members of the community own about seven per cent of the company and the

remainder is owned by Montreal-based banker and paper maker Tembec Inc.

With newspaper demand soaring in the past 18 months, Sparke Falls generated a \$16.7-million profit last year on revenues of \$162.1 million, and the level of employees' shares in the company, which made originally on the company's over-the-counter stock market, have risen to more than five dollars a share from just a dollar when the rescue went through. Sparke Falls is now leading in the province sector for a \$400-million capital investment in new machinery. And last week it announced that it had swapped up an 18.3-per-cent stake in Timmins, Ont.-based forestry firm Malartic Inc., a move that came as a prelude to Tembec's \$380-million takeover bid for Malartic.

For their part, Liberal and Progressive Conservative leaders pledged that they would preserve the new legislation that allowed Algoma and Sparke Falls workers to invest in their employer. But Roder cautions: "We want to provide opportunities for employees, but to go out and encourage people to invest their life savings only in guarantees for the future is inappropriate. And that is what some of these deals mean to the workers."

Closer to Queen's Park, de Havilland of Toronto is the next candidate—the main clause of 2,720 was an \$8-million loan to Sparke Falls, along with 10 years of low power. As well, Ontario Hydro agreed to purchase Sparke Falls' generating plant for \$142 million. That money was redeployed by employees to buy Sparke Falls from its former owners, Kimberley Clark Corp. of Duluth and The New York Times Co. of New York City. The arrangement with Hydro left the government on the hook if the power plant failed an environmental assessment. But the environmental approval was eventually given and, currently, 50 per cent of Sparke Falls is owned by its 1,000 workers. Members of the community own about seven per cent of the company and the

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Closer to Queen's Park, de Havilland of Toronto is the next candidate—the main clause of 2,720 was an \$8-million loan to Sparke Falls, along with 10 years of low power. As well, Ontario Hydro agreed to purchase Sparke Falls' generating plant for \$142 million. That money was redeployed by employees to buy Sparke Falls from its former owners, Kimberley Clark Corp. of Duluth and The New York Times Co. of New York City. The arrangement with Hydro left the government on the hook if the power plant failed an environmental assessment. But the environmental approval was eventually given and, currently, 50 per cent of Sparke Falls is owned by its 1,000 workers. Members of the community own about seven per cent of the company and the

remainder is owned by Montreal-based banker and paper maker Tembec Inc.

With newspaper demand soaring in the past 18 months, Sparke Falls generated a \$16.7-million profit last year on revenues of \$162.1 million, and the level of employees'

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Algoma Steel furnaces (above) and de Havilland jets (right). "Those rescues were born out of panic, not policy. In Rae's case, he's been lucky, but I am willing to bet that his run of luck will not continue."



close supervision on the profits, or losses, from de Haanland's performance. Besthardt's insurance division, which includes the de Haanland and Canadian units, earned a \$13-million profit last year of revenues of \$10 billion. Besthardt has undertaken to build the Global Express line of long-range aircraft jet at de Haanland and is also in the running because the government said in its report's new 70-second section of the Task Force's proposed direction.

The Ontario Teachers' Fund says it is too early to assess the government's de Haanland position, but Besthardt has maintained that the investment manufacturer is a winner, with positive cash flow, and that the government's move was an attempt to sabotage the sort of long-term job security that Ontario's plan to maintain is standard of living over the long term.

But, clearly, the case of Ontario Box industries is an ongoing problem. The company once employed 1,200 workers at plants in Mississauga and upstate New York, building about 160 boxes a year. OBB, however, was crippled by a four-year costly raid expansion and a prolonged price war with competitors. It now has only 150 employees in Dartmouth, and its production has slowed to a trickle. The previous case was not unique; after losses of \$56 million in losses and写在 \$15 million in new capital, and it selling the company to Western Star Truck Holdings Ltd. of Kelowna, B.C., for \$82 million in a deal due in close later this month. But Ontario taxpayers could still end up owing up to 25 per cent of the new \$66, while Western Star management claims it can turn around by improving internal controls and being a more efficient factory.

Ontario taxpayers will surely experience less direct punishment in the provincial economy under a Progressive Conservative or Liberal government. The Tories' economic blueprint declares that "we will cut honest budgets and reduce government grants for total savings of \$300 million." Peter Vail, press secretary for Conservative party leader Mike Harris, insists: "We do not believe that the government can go around picking winners and losers." The Liberal's Kehler noted that a Liberal government would not make direct investments, but it would consider loan guarantees to troubled businesses on a case-by-case basis, particularly if a one-industry town were threatened. But he added: "If the market says a company doesn't deserve to be saved, then it should not be saved." The very best a struggling company can hope for, says Kehler, is short-term line guarantees that would back up funds coming from the private sector. Clearly, no matter which opposition party Ontario voters elect, some of Bob Rae's favorite industrial anomalies are heading into storage.

ANDREW WILLETT

Sacred pensions in play



THE BOTTOM LINE

By BARBARA MC MURRAY

It's about time that anthropologists everywhere came out of the jungle and onto the streets. Bay Street and Wall Street tell us that, after all, few species provide strength and human behaviour like a giant oil company takeover battle. When for this and things are heard, it's better than any National Geographic special. Most recently, Gerry Schwartz, the alpinist man of Ottawa Corp., has tried to turn around an established hierarchy of George Taylor of John Labatt Ltd. with an equally bold \$2.2-billion takeover bid.

As always, the teachers' pension fund won't help with the bid. But Wood of Princeton, Ont., thinks about the whole thing: Ron Kenney, his spokesman in the 1994 annual report of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board, wearing a cozy plaid sweater and smiling cheerfully over a breakfast table. Wood does not appear to be the sort of fellow who would relish any close association with the aggressive posturing and sharp retortments of senior executives at Ottawa or Labatt. But whether he likes it or not, Wood—and 206,000 other Ontario teachers—are involved in this nasty takeover fight, their pension fund has committed \$100 million to the Ottawa shot.

It isn't the first time that the Ontario teachers' pension fund has aggressively invested capital where others might reasonably fear to tread. The fund contributed \$100 million when Walter McCain and his son passed the baton to collect \$1.2 billion for their recent takeout of Maple Leaf Foods Inc. It is also holding Steve Strobo's insurance company—which is being contested in court by several claimants—to some control of Maple Leaf Gardens. In 1992, the teachers' fund privately bought Olympia & York's stake in Tricon Financial Corp. for \$45 million from the Reichmann family, Mississauga, another division of the fund has been snapping up commercial properties.

The teachers' fund is by no means the only pension fund that has deliberately broken with the traditional allocation of assets among stocks, fixed-income products and cash. Like others, its managers are anxious to earn above-average returns on their capital as the demands of a rapidly aging population increase. Understandably, they are also look-

ing for ways to dodge the rules forcing them to invest 30 per cent of their billions in Canada's relatively small and slow capital markets.

These are certainly conceivable goals—especially in light of the

fact that the prospects of collecting in full Canada Pension are steadily dimming. Furthermore, what's a hundred million here or there to a \$22-billion fund like the teachers?

Still, the uncertainty of a CPP payout means that private pension money is more

needed than ever for Canadian workers

and should be screened from as much risk as

possible. But in the case of the Labatt takeover, Gerry openly admits that it has had inadequate access to financial informa-



Taylor right; Schwartz aggressive posturing

tion about its quarry. In fact, Glass managers are now trying to force the reduction to 30 disclosure requirements that could undermine Ottawa's valuation of its assets. The really sorry thing is, as a leveraged buyout, the accuracy of those calculations is absolutely critical in making a deal profitable. Without extremely detailed data in hand, the inherent risk of buying a company with debt to recall its parts is greatly magnified.

According to the law, pension fund managers are charged with investing assets in a prudent manner. The trouble is that prudence is often in the eye of the beholder.

Prudence, furthermore, is one of those things that doesn't always look the same in the rearview mirror. No doubt it was considered prudent at the time for the teachers' fund to spend the \$80 million on a prestige placement of Telus. But was it 2002. Today, the market value of that stake would be closer to \$31 million. Sure managers at the fund say that some of that has since been sold—but they decline to provide any other details. Now that's the sort of prudence that could wipe a smile from the face of any retired teacher.

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Business NOTES

BITTER BEER BATTLE

The verbal jousting over John Labatt Ltd.'s future intensified, with the Toronto-based brewer's board of directors formally rejecting a \$2.3-billion takeover bid from Onex Corp. of Toronto. Onex management reacted against Labatt's defensive tactics, which included a potential \$150-million tax hit on broadcasting assets for an uninvited suitor. The Onex bid expires on June 9.

CHRYSLER BID STALLS

Kirk Kerkorian dropped a \$3.1-billion takeover bid for Chrysler Corp. of Detroit. The Las Vegas-based billionaire was unable to arrange financing for his offer, launched in April with the help of former Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca.

BANKING BOSS

Veteran Bank of Nova Scotia executive Bruce Birmingham, 53, was named president of Canada's fourth-largest bank. Birmingham, a senior corporate banker, fills a position left empty since January, when former president Peter Godwin added the chairman's title to his responsibilities of chief executive.

MCCAIN FOOD FIGHT ENDS

Wallace McCain, 85, has ended his two-year legal squabble with older brother Marion, 87, for top spot of the \$3.2-billion branched food empire. After being forced out as co-chair executive, Wallace asked the New Brunswick courts to force a corporate restructuring, but that request was dropped last week. Wallace and his two sons recently took over control of Maple Leaf Foods Inc. of Toronto.

TOWERING DEBT

To help Canadian National Railways reduce its debt load, Ottawa will purchase the company's rail assets in eastern Canada, including its Town Line network in Toronto and 65,000 acres of land, for between \$100 million and \$160 million, while leaving the railway to debt from \$2.4 billion to about \$8.5 billion to win a credit rating that will make it easier to borrow money.

CABLE GETS WIRED

Canada's three largest cable companies plan to link, or "interconnect," their home communities to the Internet using Macmillen's "bridge" technology. The move, slated for early next year, is aimed at grabbing business from telephone companies, Rogers Cable Systems Ltd., Vancouver Film and Shaw Communications Inc., will be the first to offer access to Internet information services, along with a library of 20,000 titles. Cable operators also intend to launch a service with up to 14 pay-per-view channels.



Clayoquot Sound protesters in 1993; old growth rain forest should be preserved

A clear cut decision

Controversial clear-cut logging in Vancouver Island's Clayoquot Sound rain forest should be seriously curtailed, recommends a report by a scientific panel appointed by the B.C. government. The report, which is not binding, was welcomed by environmental groups, while forest companies took comfort from assurances that they will still be allowed to harvest trees.

Clayoquot Sound's old growth rain forests have been a battleground for environmentalists and loggers since the province's NDP government passed the MacMillen Bloodlet Ltd. of Victoria to harvest the area in April 1990. More than 80 protesters, including 500 Metlakatla Indians, were arrested in the summer of 1992 for blocking a logging road into the sound. Environmentalists have organized a global boycott of MacMillen Bloodlet products to protest the company's logging practices.

Last week's report, which uses 24 months to assess, argues that the forest should only be logged in this single "old-growth stand" and, at a slow rate, in a process known as cable logging. The panel also recommended that 120 environmental monitors be established to monitor the timber. Six companies were shown in info reports to be involved in harvesting timber.

Experts have faulted Canada's economic growth in recent years, but a sharp slowdown in the key U.S. market this winter has stifled demand for goods. Canada's leaders reacted to the weak economic reports by dropping the prime interest rate a quarter point to nine per cent, a move aimed at stimulating the economy. Economists say falling interest rates should allow the Canadian economy to steer clear of recession.



Will Canada survive a post-national world?

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

Suddenly, everybody's talking about how tragic or fantastic it is that Canada is moving to its post-national future. Who, even if one is not exactly what that means.

The signs are all around us. Last week, the comfort that makes like ours, Heritage Minister Michel Drapeau, lamented that domestic ownership restrictions for broadcasting and cable companies would soon be lifted. At the same time, government support continues to be drastically slashed, not only for the CRTC but \$670 million over three years as well from the heritage department's budget, so that the nation's already vulnerable cultural industries have been placed at life-support systems. Even before the reduced budgets for Canadian content, foreign fare was being shown for 97 per cent of cinema screen time across the country; three-quarters of books sold were imported; fully 90 per cent of television and recorded music come from out-side sources. Canadian musicians have been hit particularly hard, with only a few small independent, while book publishers have had their federal grants sliced in half. All of these moves have gone directly counter to Jean Chrétien's Red Book pledge that his government would support cultural enterprises, because "culture is the bedrock of national survival and national pride."

The fact that, despite these and other redistributive measures, the Canadian government keeps scaling ever higher peaks on the meter of public approval seems to be a measure of how law supports for second cultural activities has sunk. This plays right into the hands of the American cultural entrepreneurs who regard Canada as nothing more than an extension of their northern sales districts. To them, the U-S-Canada border is just an east-west line on the map, like the equator. These globalized auto jockeys regard culture as Yves Ross wrote recently in *The Globe and Mail*, "simply [as] product, to be copyrighted and sold, the value neutral stuff that burns

official writer of Canadian art, confessed after his appointment that his knowledge of our paintings was limited to "a few early 20th-century Canadian landscapes" he'd glanced at. Delta. The main art galleries in Vancouver and Toronto have both followed the same example of supporting American directors recently. (Ironically, the argument here isn't that only those who are Canadian born and bred should take on the guidance of essential domestic agencies—otherwise, having been born in Austria, I could never have been editor of this magazine, which I was from 1973 to 1992. My contention is that those who are appointed ought to have some basic knowledge and appreciation of the country they are presumed to be serving.)

The message is clear: no man a Canadian cultural institution now requires no knowledge of country or people, but instead of how to tackle the business line, which presumably were the qualifications of Ministers Paul Martin, Mackay and Harris—though the last did have a couple of months go bankrupt under her.

Another sign of this international變成is that any Canadian credence or speech has become suspect and is gradually eliminated. When Canadian Pacific, the country's largest company, accepted a new corporate logo, it picked an American designer's version that featured stars and stripes for Canada, as well, used an American to design the new paint job being introduced on its aircraft. The Canadian Football League is rapidly becoming transformed into a continental league that is stamping Grey Cup day from being the great Canadian occasion a mere year. Hadley is becoming more and more of an American-owned game, the CRTC's Canadian content regulations have become a joke.

All of these trends started during the past decade when Brian Mulroney helped rhetorical scores on what remained of Canadian nationalism, rendered its few remaining means of enforcement, such as the Foreign Investment Review Agency, and threw open the doors to foreign takeovers. The national economy was subordinated to the global economy, which in practical terms meant that the Americans took over most of the remaining profitable corporate assets. This applied equally to sovereignty, especially in the north. The Tory government broke its pledge to build a polar icebreaker and, instead, then-Deputy Minister Ed McNaught admitted that "defending Canada's Arctic waters will have to be left to the United States."

None of these disparate trends and events—which have been strengthened after they repudiated by the Chrétien government—can destroy a country or its citizens' strong feelings of being part of it. But if the post-nationalistic fervor doesn't stop somewhere this side of nihilism, we might have to subscribe to the won definition of Canada, proposed by Gorbalski, B.C., poet John Moore: "This intellectually polarized landmark on the fifth parallel we call a country."

That's not my Canada, and I hope it's not

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THE SNEEZING SEASON

A BY MARK NICHOLS

long with erosion, budding trees and longer daylight hours, one of the surest signs that summer is near is the profusion of billboards across the land trumpeting the siren that "It's Sneeze time again." Or it could be Cough time, or Hayfever time—the season when hay fever sufferers stock up on over-the-counter antihistamines and dig in for the months of sniffing and sneezing ahead. It is also a time when some of the 70 per cent of Canadians who are allergy-free may wonder—with just a glint of superiority—what the fuss is all about. They might find out some day—allergies can develop at any point in a person's life.

At the same time, doctors have seen an alarming growth in the number of people suffering from asthma—a chronic disease that is frequently aggravated by hay fever. And new allergies are surfacing, including the often severe reaction to latex gloves and other latex products that affects thousands of health-care workers and their patients (page 49).

Among the most heavily afflicted are the thousands of Canadians who suffer from multiple allergies. Theresa Nicholson, 38, a second year science student at the University of Western Ontario in London suffers from several asthma, hay fever, eczema, more than 60 food allergies (including nuts and meat), and latex (gloves, latex, latex). She is also anaphylactic and says that she nearly died once when an asthma drug put her into shock. "I get depressed because I've been so sick," says Nicholson. "But I don't stay depressed. I just try to keep busy with school. My social life isn't great. I feel like I'm always educated."

As trees and plants discharge their pollen into the spring and summer breezes, an estimated three million Canadians will be plagued by the most and aggravating symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis, otherwise known as hay fever. And hay fever is just one of the growing number of allergies that seem to be making more and more lives miserable. They include chronic rhinitis (a hay fever-like condition that can be triggered by household dust, cat and dog allergies, and respiratory reactions to widely consumed drugs and foods, including moulds and peanuts), which in its more severe form can produce anaphylactic shock—a catastrophic response that kills at least a dozen Canadians annually.

Reliable statistics on the upsurge in allergies are scarce. But in a survey published a year ago, Statistics Canada found that 27 per cent of Canadians over the age of 15—or at least five million people—said that they suffered from allergies, from 10 per cent in the late 1950s. Some experts fear the apparent increase in allergies, which have been reported in most major industrialized nations, may simply be the result of heightened awareness. But others contend that the spike is real. "A century ago," says Dr. Stuart Berger, a senior research scientist at Toronto's McNeil Hospital, "allergies like hay fever were almost unknown. Now perhaps one in five people have allergies."

The cause of all this may be the general interplay of environmental factors, including drier, tightly sealed houses, tobacco smoke, air pollution, and a burgeoning population of cats and dogs. According to another theory, the increase in allergy problems could be a paradoxical byproduct of modern medicine and elevated living standards, which may

contribute to make the human immune system hyper-sensitive to allergic triggers. With more and more people suffering, scientists have stepped up efforts to figure out ways of preventing allergic reactions from happening. As a result, several promising new drugs are currently undergoing clinical trials—and even better ones could emerge in the future.

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No one is quite sure why more and more Canadians are suffering from hay fever and other allergies

are people—I have to tell them what to do for me in an emergency."

Compared with that, ordinary hay fever is a relatively mild ailment—but an inflicting one. And relentlessly inconvenient one just the same. The sneezes and sniffles, with hives sometimes thrown in for good measure, begin for some sufferers when melting snow in the spring exposes plant spores (pollen) to the nose and the moulds formed by rotting vegetation. Both pollens potent particles that can waltz into a victim's airways. Then, in May and June in most parts of Canada, come tree and grass pollens, and later in the summer, ragweed, raggeder, and the other weed seeds that can brighten the hay fever victim's life. Until she begins

receiving allergy shots a few years ago, says Andrea Kremayr, a Mental psychologist, "I'd wake up with so much inflammation in my eyes that they'd be glued together—and at the same time I'd be sneezing uncontrollably."

She does not know much longer her fever symptoms—a few microscopically small pollen grains can set off a complex, and often unpredictable, process. Human airways are lined with sensitive fibres, called mast cells, whose surfaces are covered with antibodies. The task of the antibodies, known as immunoglobulin E (IgE), is to identify enemy invaders. When they do, the immune system declares a red alert and fires off a battery of chemical weapons—including histamine, which is responsible for drip, watery eyes, runny nose and nose-clogged airways. Other chemicals released by IgE cause the inflamed eyes and sneezes that afflict some hay fever victims and asthmatics.

All of the drastic steps taken by the immune system are designed to keep allergy-promoting substances, or allergens, access to the body. But there is a grainy reality about all this: in hay fever—and in all allergies—the body is reacting to an imaginary threat. What causes the immune system to mount a massive response to an essentially harmless pollen? One theory is that part of the immune system was originally designed to react potentially deadly parasites. Because parasites are no longer a serious threat in the industrialized world, the immune system—ever on the lookout for enemy attackers—mistakenly reacts to harmless particles that are structurally similar in precision. "It's," says Dr. David Copeland, an allergist who practices in Ottawa and Montreal, "a failure of discernment by the immune system."

That is sort of comfort to the countless victims scuffling through another allergy season. Those with severe hay fever can often conquer the problem by getting allergy shots. After doing skin tests to determine what allergies are involved, a physician injects gradually increasing doses of a protein extracted from the allergen. For reasons that are not fully understood, this treatment persuades the immune system to stop becoming needlessly aroused when it detects an allergen. But the process is a lengthy one, sometimes requiring shots as often as once a week—and taking up to three years to provide relief.

Many hay fever sufferers skip the shots and turn to drugs with a variety of names, decongestants and antihistamines—drugs that block the action of histamine. Antihistamines often prevent effectively—for a while. Soon, however, after a few days, the immune system learns to circumvent the drug, forcing the victim to search for a new preparation—often a stronger one. Some sufferers, like Andrew Townsend, a 31-year-old Ottawa database specialist, prefer to go along without drugs. "When the improved comes out, I get hayfever and can start sneezing," says Townsend. "It's a mispick, but I don't really take drugs. I avoid it to the last. I carry lots of Kleenex."

Better allergy drugs may be on the way. One promising approach was developed by Intra-Logic Pharmaceuticals Corp., in Waltham, Mass. Company researchers found that a drug based on part of the protein that triggers an allergic attack can be used to limit its severity. The solution



of the protein in peanuts is called a peptide. When a hay fever sufferer takes a drug containing, for example, a specially engineered synthetic form of ragweed peptide, the drug sharply reduces that person's reaction to the allergens. Clinical trials are currently under way to test two drugs—designed to deal with ragweed and cat allergies—based on the Immunologic research Ontario in London, Ont., have found. Michael Mervell, Dow Canada, which plays a major role in the drug, said that the new medications could be on the market within the next few years. In another approach, Genentech Inc. of South San Francisco is conducting early-stage trials of a genetically engineered IgE antibody that would block the discharge of histamine in people suffering from a number of allergic conditions, including asthma, allergic rhinitis and atopic dermatitis.

Many of the estimated 50,000 Canadians who have anaphylaxis carry something for more potent—possibly pocket-syringe syringes that they can use to inject themselves with adrenalin when exposed to a shock-inducing allergen. It can happen all too easily—like someone who is anaphylactic, a mere whiff of peanut butter or a sip of milk can do it. So can some kinds of seafood, certain drugs and wrap or bee stings. About eight per cent of Canadian children under 10, and about two per cent of adults, have food allergies—and many of them are anaphylactic.

In anaphylaxis, the immune system's response is massive—and potentially catastrophic. In extreme cases, the immune system floods the body with chemicals that cause veins and arteries to become pores. Blood pressure plummets—the victim goes into a coma and can even die—unless adrenalin is injected soon enough to bulk the process. Increasingly, peanuts—which, confusingly, are not nut but members of the bean and pea family—are emerging as one of the principal causes of anaphylactic shock. The allergy is frighteningly common among children—an estimated one per cent of Canadian youngsters react adversely to peanuts. Their lives can be hazardous, because peanuts are available in so many forms—soaked in the shell, in cooking oil used in the peanut butter sandwiches that are a lunch staple for schoolchildren, in breakfast cereals, cookies, candies and chocolate bars.

Eight-year-old Laura Byrnes of Edmonton knows what will

happen if she touches anything containing peanuts. "Her tongue and throat have to swell," says Laura's mother, Lily Byrnes. "She starts vomiting and gets hives all over. They breathing problems can develop and, if she doesn't get an adrenaline shot, she could go into anaphylactic shock." That has not happened yet, adds Byrnes, "but we have to be prepared for anything." Lily Byrnes thinks that she might have been responsible for causing her daughter's peanut allergy because when she was pregnant with Laura, she recalls, "I ate peanut butter on toast just about every day for breakfast."

There could be a connection. During the past decade, scientists have vastly enlarged their understanding of the intricate biological mechanisms involved in allergies. They have learned that the immune system is highly sensitive in the early years of life—and that many allergies develop as the child is exposed to potential allergens for the first time. Some scientists speculate that food eaten by pregnant women could indeed lead to the development of allergies in their unborn child. Dr. Peter Vadas, a Toronto immunologist, notes that the theory is so far unsupported. Meanwhile, experts strongly endorse the growing tendency among Canadian mothers to breast-feed for six months or longer, thus delaying their child's exposure to other foods. And they urge

'A century ago, allergies like hay fever were almost unknown—the growth has been enormous'

breastfeeding women to avoid peanuts, fish and other foods that can cause allergic reactions in babies. "After half a year," says Susan English, executive director of the Toronto-based Allergies/Asthma Information Association, "a baby's system is far less vulnerable."

Researchers also know that allergies run in families. If one parent has an allergy, a child stands a 50-per-cent chance of being allergic as well. If both parents have allergies, the odds shoot up to 80 per cent. A specific allergy develops through a process called sensitization, during which the immune system begins to recognize certain substances as foreign. Cells promptly begin producing IgE antibodies dedicated to fighting that allergen. Each time the allergen is encountered, the number of antibodies increases. That explains why an individual's first exposure will, say, trigger off a peanut, but may produce a mild reaction—which becomes more pronounced with each subsequent encounter. A central question remains: "The mystery," says Dr. Paul O'Byrne, a professor of medicine at McMaster University in Hamilton, "is why someone—a allergic can but not be born that way."

Many researchers think that some kind of outside catalyst, or trigger, is needed to "turn on" an allergy. Though there is no hard evidence yet, some researchers think that genetic predisposition notwithstanding, a prime suspect in the increase of asthma—ever played just such a role in respiratory allergies. A growing number of studies as well have pointed to a link between air pollution and allergies. In a 1990



It only takes a few tiny pollen grains to set off a complex and unpleasant process

Photo: Brian McLean/Photo Researchers
Inset photo: Brian McLean/Photo Researchers

study, Dr. Neil Zaidi, a University of Toronto professor of medicine, reported that people with allergy-related asthma showed an increased sensitivity to ragweed and grass pollen when they were exposed to the same low-to-low levels of ozone—a component of urban smog that is produced when sunlight strikes nitrogen dioxide emissions from factories and other sources.

According to a new and intriguing theory, high

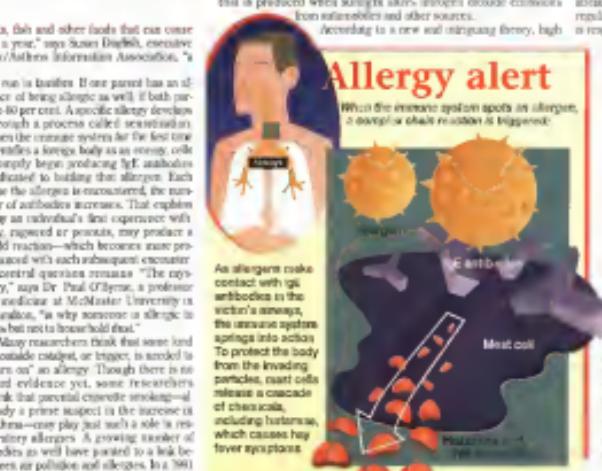
levels of atopic-type responses, including asthma.

Though researchers around the world are working to unravel the biochemical causes of allergies, few hold out hope of a quick cure. Currently, scientists in Canada and other countries are focusing their attention on a family of hormones-like chemicals called cytokines that regulate certain cell functions. The cytokine interleukin-1, for example, is responsible for ordering cells to produce IgE antibodies. Clearly, if IgE might be brought under control, or even cured, if a way

could be found to prevent interleukin-1 from functioning. "There is a lot of exciting work going on in this area," says Dr. Alan Becker, an associate professor of immunology at the University of Manitoba. "But the trouble is that every time we open up a new area of investigation, it turns out that it's a lot more complicated than you thought."

Weakly Hospital's Berger is following up a similarly promising lead that could also take years to produce results. Last August, Berger discovered a mouse cell molecule, dubbed CD-45, that plays a vital role in the immune system's communications. If CD-45 could be "switched off," then the immune cells would not receive the signals that persuade them to take defensive action. "We're working to try to understand how these things work," says Berger. "But it will be a long process—this isn't going to lead to new treatments in the next few years."

Berger has pressing personal reasons for hoping his better allergy treatments will soon be in use. In allergic pit-bulls, Berger, 30, "had within minutes I have itchy eyes, a runny nose, coughing and sneezing. It's awful, and like dogs." Prior to a, a Montreal sports analyst, Berger suffered from hay fever, would also well come astute seasonal allergies. "I would feel really bad," says Nata, the arrival of warmer weather means that "I walk, as every morning and evening for about 30 minutes." It's pretty embarrassing. It can be embarrassing to public to always be sneezing and sniffing and coughing. "For now, as scientists probe over the mysterious upsurge in allergies, sneezing and sniffing will continue to be among the familiar sounds of summer." □



WHEEZING AND WORRYING

BY MARK NICHOLS

Esley Moore was 10 when asthma invaded her life. She was living in Montreal, where a doctor was treating her for lung fever brought on by tree pollen in the spring and fall. "And then one day," recalls Moore, now 35 and a resident of North Bay, Ont., "I just got one heck of an asthma attack. I've been having flares ever since." Moore says that asthma now affects her whole life. "I have to watch where I go," she says. "I have to stay away from crowds because of the risk of picking up any bugs, which would make my asthma worse. I have to watch out for yellow jackets in the summer and vacuum the house all the time to keep down the dust. Even with medication, my asthma is hard to control. Sometimes I can't sleep because of my coughing and wheezing. And some days, the weather will be just beautiful—but I can't even open the window because of what might come in. Asthma is a very big adjustment—it turns your whole life around."

Over the past 25 years, asthma—a contraction of the airways causing coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath—has been disrupting more and more lives, around the world and at all age groups. An estimated 12 million Canadians, or about 10 per cent of the population, have the disease, up from about two per cent 25 years ago. And the deadly rate is rising: among Canadians aged 10 and 34, deaths from asthma have more than doubled since the early 1980s; in 1994, the affliction claimed about 800 Canadian lives. "What we have," says Dr. Malcolm Sears, a professor of medicine at McMaster University in Hamilton, "is an illness that used to be considered a relatively mild disease—and now it's killing people."

Experts are not sure why more people are suffering, and various theories about asthma's symptoms. Some scientists believe that the childless mothers who smoke are at greater risk of developing asthma—and surveys show that more young women are smoking. Other experts point to the prevalence of energy-efficient homes, which, while saving at first, also seal in environmental dust. And a growing number of experts think that some asthma victims die simply because their family doctors lack an adequate understanding of the illness and do not teach sufferers how to control it. However, some researchers maintain that many asthmatics are passing themselves off as risks through a misuse of a family of medications: the drugs called beta-agonists. The drugs "are highly effective at blunting asthma attacks, but some researchers are convinced that if used too often, because individuals are not the most severe asthma patients, they could lead to drug tolerance," says Sears, without realizing that they may actually be aggravating their condition.

The good news is that knowledge about asthma—and asthma medications—is improving to the point where many victims can live nearly normal lives. There are shining examples in the sports world: Steven Nash,

Asthma affects growing numbers of people



the 28-year-old speed skater from Winnipeg, and Sean Crocklow, the 26-year-old curler from Nepean, Ont., both suffer from asthma and have both won a clutch of medals at international competitions. "I got into skating," says Nash, "because my doctor encouraged me to take up something—he thought that having strong lungs would help my asthma. And it has."

For others, bouts of wheezing can make life an ordeal. It is particularly hard on children, a segment of the population in which asthma is growing rapidly. According to the Toronto-based Asthma Society of Canada, one in five Canadian children now suffers from asthma—a substantial increase over a generation ago. Nine-year-old Jon Crossfield is asthmatic, and some of his worst suffering occurred when the Crossfield family of northern British Columbia moved just 318 km southwest, from New Hazelton to Terrace, four years ago. When he first encountered the kinds of trees and grasses that grow around Terrace, recalls Jon's mother, Sharon Crossfield, he experienced a bad attack at a time when she and her husband had yet learned how to cope with his asthma. "It was scary," she recalls. "He would cough so about five minutes and then try to take a deep breath—but he couldn't. He'd look at me, his eyes saying, 'Aren't you going to help me?' And there was nothing we could do."

In about 10 per cent of cases, asthma is genetic in origin that means that parents or grandparents are asthmatic; their children likely will be, too. About 10 per cent of asthmatics suffer from allergies which trigger asthma attacks. In nonsmokers, asthma usually appears in childhood, but it can strike adults who have never before had asthma symptoms. And while children sometimes "outgrow" the asthma of their early years, the affliction can return in later life.

For the allergic asthmatic, the enemy may be microscopic. The substances that may trigger attacks include house dust, tobacco smoke, dust mites and other kinds of pollen, as well as other plant pollens, perfumes, paints, chemicals, even eggs and other foods and food preservatives and household pets—especially cats. "Cats," says Dr. Pierre Ernst, a Montreal respirologist, "are a menace to society." An

estimated 20 per cent of all asthma may be related to the victim's workplace, where industrial chemicals, wood dust or varnish can trigger an attack.

What makes asthma start chapter for health, it is because the airways leading to the lungs have suddenly narrowed. The airways begin with an epithelium on the surface, nose and throat cells that they have specialized an enzyme inhibitor. The body's immune system responds by releasing chemicals that incite the airways to lie to the epithelial cells. Some of the chemicals act immediately by causing a spasm in the airway muscles, but other immune system chemicals can take up to six hours to produce what doctors call a late phase inflammatory response in the airways—and a second attack long after the first one has passed.

Understanding that chain of events has enabled researchers to develop better asthma drugs. Most promising are the so-called bronchodilators, which can relieve an attack while it is happening, and anti-inflammatory medications, including powerful synthetic corticosteroids, which can help prevent the next one.

Both groups of drugs carry some health risks. The bronchodilators include salbutamol (trade name the brand name Ventolin), ipratropium (Atrovent) and terbutaline sulphate (Bricanyl). During the mid-1980s, Malcolm Sears, a medical researcher in Dunedin, New Zealand, who wondered why asthma appeared to be getting more serious, carried out a study involving 34 asthmatic patients who used beta-agonists four times a day—and found that over a one-month period, asthma in approximately 10 of the patients actually got worse.

Subsequently, researchers at the Royal University Hospital in Sudbury produced findings that suggested why certain of beta agonists could cause problems. In a 1990 study, the researchers found that when 12 mildly asthmatic patients were treated with an inhaled beta-agonist for two weeks, their sensitivity to allergens increased—and, in the patient's tolerance, the drug became less capable of relieving constricted airways. As a result, the patient's asthma became worse. What the findings showed, says Dr. Doug Cockfield, the University of Saskatchewan respirologist who headed the study, "is that the way we have been treating asthma may have something to do with the increasing number of hospital admissions...and deaths—largely on asthma." Despite the concerns about beta-agonists, no one is suggesting that they should be taken off the market—only that they should be used sparingly. "Beta-agonists are superb at what they do," says Cockfield. "They are lifesaving drugs. But there is reason to feel that they should be used as little as possible." According to Stuart Wilson, a spokesman for Glaxo Canada Inc., which makes Ventolin, "beta-agonists are the best available medication for managing acute asthma attacks. But they are not the only treatment for asthma, and they should not be used as though they were."

Many physicians urge their patients to keep beta-agonists in reserve and rely on anti-inflammatory drugs, such as asthma-clearing inhaled steroids. But there are health risks associated with steroids, as well as fatigue or taken as tablets, especially such as the widely used prednisone can, after years of use, cause a variety of side-effects, including weight gain, muscle wasting, high blood pressure and osteoporosis.

Mighty mites

Dust mites are as small they are invisible to the naked eye. But they can cause serious problems for asthmatics. *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* (magnified, above), as the creature is formally known, lives in mattresses, pillows, sofas and carpets, where it feeds on the particles of dead skin shed by humans. Dust mites are not a threat to everyone, but their droppings contain a potent allergen and, if inhaled by an asthmatic, can trigger an attack of wheezing. Experts advise asthmatics to permanently enclose mattresses, box springs and pillows in plastic bags to deprive the dust mites of food. Unless such precautions are taken, the average Canadian bed may play host to as many as two million dust mites.



Taking asthma medication now is fine. Controlling it is more difficult, with the disease.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY LAROCQUE

you can also start growth in children. For those reasons, most doctors now prescribe for patients with severe asthma, and treat milder cases with oral corticosteroids, which have fewer side-effects. Dorothy Blaustein, a常委, AHA, member of Fins, says that the concern about her hypertension, joint, and the history of medications—including steroids—needed to control his asthma. "He has been taking all those powerful medications for years," she says, "and we don't really know what the long-term effects may be."

Meanwhile, scientists are developing a new family of antiinflammatory drugs that could ward off newsworthy inflammation without causing any of the side-effects associated with steroids. Dr. Paul O'Byrne, a clinical researcher at McMaster University, says that the new drugs will help asthmatics by blocking the action of leukotrienes—mediators released by the body's immune system that are partly responsible for the inflammation that can cause one asthma attack to follow three or four hours after another. The new approach, says O'Byrne, who helped to develop it, should be especially useful in preventing asthma induced by vigorous exercise, which (overexertion) can cause the release of leukotrienes—and a host of wheezing. Several major drug companies have developed leukotriene-based asthma drugs, which could start coming on the market during the next year or so.

In their search for the underlying factors behind the asthma epidemic, most researchers—surprisingly—have so far ruled out a major role for our city's culprit: urban pollution. Even though certain social and industrial pollutants can trigger wheezing at times, there is little evidence to suggest that it is a major factor in the spread of asthma. Still, experts say that air pollution can sometimes trigger the onset of asthma in people who are genetically predisposed

to get the disease. And airborne chemicals can cause asthma in people who have asthma. Last week, Cynthia Morton, a 27-year-old Saint John, N.B., resident, who campaigned against air pollution in the city, died after a severe asthma attack. A fellow protester Judy LeBlanc, blamed Morton's death and a rash of asthma attacks in the city, on emissions from the city's Irving oil refinery. "Air pollution is not the cause of our problems," said LeBlanc. "But it puts us in a position where the cause questions can be had."

Tobacco air pollution may play a larger role in the spread of asthma, since the increase inergy costs that began during the late 1970s prompted households to seal their houses more off completely prevent heat loss. The popularity of self-tailored carpeting and heating blankets has played a role in creating a "dust-free" environment, for some of substances were released—either intentionally or accidentally—when these dropships are a powerful asthma allergen. The cleaner (dust-free) air that is created by these products, may also be a potent allergen. There is tobacco smoke; studies have shown that children exposed to secondhand smoke experienced their severe asthma attacks than those who are. Other researchers have found evidence suggesting that the children of smokers who never smoke tend to be more likely to develop asthma—though it is not clear why. "Not young women are the only group where smoking is increasing," says Dr. Kenneth Chapman, director of the Asthma Centre at The Toronto Hospital. "It seems so obvious—there must be a connection."

Many asthma experts think that better treatment—and more care—is a cure—all emerge when researchers give a clearer understanding of the genetic factors responsible for perhaps 90 per cent of asthma cases. As a result, scientists around the world are searching for asthma-related genes. At the University of Toronto, a research team set up a few years ago checked in study participants with a high incidence of asthma. The problem was when to begin. Dr. Zainul, a 57-year-old professor who specializes in pulmonary medicine, remembered reading about the myrrh of Tintoretto da Coimbra, a 16th-century Portuguese physician who treated asthma with a concoction of 1,200 miles west of Cape Town, South Africa. The island has a population of about 300 that is distinguished by its low-weathering soils, its peculiar version of early 15th-century English—and by the fact that about half the inhabitants are asthmatic, "it seemed," says Zainul, "the place to go."

The trouble, actually, was that the island's elected council wanted no part of Zainul's proposal. But after an exchange of faxed messages, and an offer of gifts, including personal and electronic equipment, the council finally agreed. In

Chapman (right)
testing a patient—
seeing how many
asthma victims are
better informed

HAND-IN-GLOVE DISEASE

T

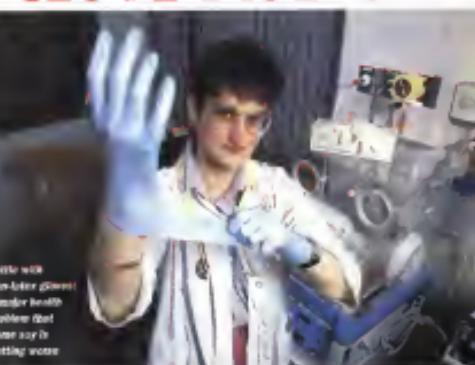
he symptoms were mild at first. When Shelley Morton started working as a dental assistant in Saint John, N.B., three years ago, she noticed that her hands would break out in an itchy red rash whenever she wore latex gloves. The problem seemed to disappear when she switched from natural latex gloves—made from the sap of the rubber tree—to synthetic ones. "I thought that was the end of it," says the 25-year-old Morton. She did not realize that she was still inhaling the fine particles of latex flicked into the air every time a co-worker snapped on latex gloves. By March 1994, she recalls, "I had rashes everywhere and I was having asthma attacks." When tests showed that Morton was allergic to latex, her doctor advised her to leave. She held on until June, when she could no longer ignore symptoms. "One day, I was having so many attacks, I had to walk out," says Morton. "My throat tightened, my lips swelled and I felt dizzy. I left the office and went to the hospital."

More than a decade ago, few doctors had heard of latex allergy, and none would have suspected that it could cause anaphylaxis, the life-threatening allergic reaction that Morton experienced. Natural latex has been used as a sealant in glass, balloons, condoms and thousands of other familiar products for more than 50 years with no hint of a problem. But Canadian doctors sounded the alarm about the serious new allergy at an international medical conference in 1989, when they reported on two cases in Ontario. But, rubber-plant worker who experienced the first known instance of latex-induced asthma, and an Aspin, Ont., operating-room nurse who had a career-long reaction to the substance. Now, an estimate of 17 million North Americans suffer from the allergy, which seems to develop after prolonged exposure to latex. "It's a major health problem," says Calgary allergist Dr. David Cross, "and it's getting worse in areas where nothing is being done about it."

Certain groups are particularly vulnerable, including rubber industry workers, people who have had frequent surgery and children with some birth—a congenital disorder that requires extensive treatment involving latex medical equipment. During the height of the latex healthcare workers who regularly wear latex gloves as a precaution against such latex allergies as latex, as well as those who handle latex products reach a dangerous level of sensitivity before they recognize they have a problem."

Why the rubber workplace increases its allergies to latex? So far, there is one clear answer: Many researchers believe that the epidemic parallels the introduction of protective measures against AIDS in the mid-1980s. "Health-care workers now wear these gloves eight hours a day," says Dr. Gordon Stevenson, Toronto-based president of the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, who says that the continual contact causes the allergy to develop. "The powder comes off the gloves," he explains, "and they make latex and sensitive theives."

Some experts blame the surge to allergic reactions on a decline in the quality of latex gloves. Natural latex is harvested by hand from *Hevea brasiliensis*, a rubber plant that grows in Southeast Asia and Brazil. The latex latex that comes out of the trunk of the oil, softwood tree contains hundreds of chemicals. But only a fraction of its proteins cause allergies. The offending proteins can be removed from the surface of latex products by repeated washings in hot water (although some remain within the material), according to Bradley Pugh, a vice-president of Aspin, an Alabama-based glove manufacturer. But he and other experts believe that as the switch to the more demand for latex gloves in the late 1980s, new businesses shipped that step and produced gloves that contained high



Kyle with
new latex gloves
in mind health
problems that
some say is
getting worse

An allergy to latex can trigger a range of ailments

Island of asthma

October, 1989, Zainul and his son, Peter, took a ship to the island town of São José. There was no airport and spent the next month living blood samples from every islander over seven. At the same time, Zainul and McLean traced the family histories of the islanders. The test was completed by the fact that all of São José's inhabitants are the descendants of a British soldier named William Giese, who settled there in 1817, and a handful of Dutch, Italian and American settlers, some of whom subsequently married into the Giese family.

Since he got to São José, Zainul has collected data on highly asthmatic populations in other parts of the world, including the British colony of Rio de Janeiro and the Chagos island of Henderson, 1,500 miles southwest of Shanghai. Meanwhile, a laboratory in La Jolla, Calif., has begun testing the São José blood samples. Zainul says that when the laboratory determines the genetic source of the islanders' asthma, he plans to return to São José. "It's a big party. We hope that will end soon."

MARK NICHOLS with SHARON SOBOL
DARTMOUTH in Texas

MIKE

SHARON DOYLE DARTMOUTH

MICHAEL ISSUE 12 1995 49

The two faces of Karla Homolka

Was she, as the Crown alleges, another of Bernardo's victims—or was she a cold and calculating predator?

The home-made videotape is full of incoherent scenes and threatening abuse. And beyond Karla Homolka, then 20, gabbles with her sisters, Lori (left) and Tammy (right), and teases her parents, Karel and Dorothy, who are about to pose for the camera. At one point, Karla says gleefully "It's Christmas time." These scenes were recorded by Paul Bernardo, Homolka's live-in boyfriend, on the evening of Dec. 28, 1989, at the Homolka family home in St. Catharines, Ont. A few hours later, Homolka and Bernardo appeared in another house made wide at this time of year: they raped Bernardo's pregnant and unconscious victim, Tammy. In the "homemade movie," the first few minutes of the rape are shown. Later, in a much darker video tape shown in the documentary *Toronto*, in courtrooms where Bernardo is on trial for the first-degree murder of two other teenage girls. But while the jury will decide the fate of Bernardo, the case was left to ponder a question that lingered over Homolka's own trial two years ago: Was Karla Homolka as the defense will claim a calculating predator—or was she, as the prosecution has alleged, just another of Bernardo's victims?

The graphic, deeply disturbing videos presented last week provided hints but not firm answers. In the attack on Tammy, who died hours later after choking on her own vomit, Homolka appears to be a calculating participant, calling it "fun" and "disgusting" when Bernardo forces her to have oral sex with her sister. But on other tapes, while having consensual sex with Bernardo, she seems a willing, even enthusiastic participant in her future husband's fantasies. She declares that she "loved it" when he had sex with Tammy, tears off her dead sister's clothes for Bernardo's entertainment—and suggests that they abduct other young virgins for the man she calls "the king."

All the multifaceted fascination with the Homolka tapes—the gut reaction to the Toronto tape's overwhelming revulsion. Early last week, Justice Patrick Lelangé, who is presiding over the trial, ruled that only the accused, the jury and court officials could see tapes that depict the physical and sexual assaults on 14-year-old Leslie Mahaffy and 15-year-old Kristen French, the two girls Bernardo is accused of kidnapping and murdering. But he allowed the public and media to view shaving the studio portions of the tapes. The ruling also applied to tapes showing the attacks on Tammy and on an unnamed 16th young victim—known as Jane Doe—who survived her ordeal and is expected to testify later in the trial, possibly with her identity concealed.

Lelangé's ruling allowing the public to hear the tapes angered members of the French and Mahaffy families, who have sat in the courtroom almost daily. They quickly appealed to the Supreme Court of



Karla Homolka (bottom left); under Tammy, Kristen, Lori and Dorothy Homolka (top right); the battered Homolka (right); the gut reaction was revolting

Canada for permission to appeal Lelangé's decision, but were turned down. They also showed their displeasure by walking out of court along with several supporters on the day when Crown lawyers played the Homolka tape to the陪审团. The following morning, the Crown played a series of even more chilling tapes that depicted the June 15, 1990, confinement and rape of Leslie Mahaffy—whose dismembered body was later found encased in concrete in a nearby lake. While only the jury and court officials saw the images, Bernardo's voice was perfectly audible in the public gallery at several points. And among those listening was the victim's mother, Debbie Mahaffy, who made a standing entrance, accompanied by two victims' rights advocates, while the Crown was playing a 25%-minute tape. As music by pop performer David Bowie and singer Lou Reed Marley plays in the background, Bernardo and Homolka perform numerous sex acts with the teenager, whose speech sounds shivered and uncertain. At one point, Bernardo says:

These tapes were shown on too large TV screens to the public, because most of the teenage victims appear in them. They contained hideous dialogue during scenes in which Homolka relentlessly performs oral sex on Kristen who appears bored and passive. In the second tap, in the final girls between them, perform sexual acts on Tammy's water bed, and after 10 hours and rug rags, Bernardo holds up the girls' 9th-grade photo in front of the stationary camera, and says "There's a little virgin there. That's Tammy. Look Homolka."

The tapes shown in June 1 and lasting nearly 44 minutes, were played twice in their entirety to allow the jury to absorb both the images and the dialogue. They had a devastating effect on almost everyone in the room. Bernardo's lawyers, Jim Brown and Tom Bryant, worked on newspaper crossword puzzles rather than watch initially many spectators seated at the bar or shake their heads in disbelief at the end of



Bernardo's tape

the afternoon, the public galleries were nearly empty. "I can't understand how people can be that way," spectator Cindy Daupratt, a 27-year-old community college student, said outside. "It's aesthetic, psychotic gross."

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But the family's testimony left several holes in the story. In effective cross-examination by Brown, mother and daughter conceded that Bernardo's abuse of Karla occurred only in the last six months of the relationship, after the members of Mahaffy and French. Until then, they acknowledged, Bernardo and Homolka appeared to be a happy, loving couple. They also agreed with Brown that, shortly after the French murder, something happened between Homolka and Bernardo that destroyed their marriage. But they and they had no idea what it was. That is only one of the enduring questions in this case, questions Homolka will undoubtedly be called upon to address when the tortilles as the prosecution's star witness—presumably in late June or early July. Perhaps then the larger riddle of Karla Homolka—murder or承诺—will finally be answered.

DARCY JENKIN

'BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY'

The death of 25-year-old Tammy Homolka who choked on her own vomit, on Dec. 23, 1990, was ruled accidental, but the Crown alleges that she died after Paul Bernardo and sister Karla Homolka secretly spiked her drink with sleeping pills—and sexually assaulted her. In early 1991, while having sex in the basement of the Homolka family home in St. Catharines, Ont., Bernardo and Homolka discussed the death in a videotaped conversation. Excerpts:

Bernardo: [Referring to the videotaped sexual assault of Tammy] Did you like watching that?

Homolka: I loved watching it.

Bernardo: How did you feel?

Homolka: I feel proud. I feel happy. It's my mission in life to make you feel good.

Bernardo: [Referring to the videotaped sexual assault of Tammy] Did you like watching that?

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get down here in my room. [The coat has so far held out further extraction on this incident.] You went out and you lead her. Get her. Bring her back to the house, brought her downstairs. I was shocked.

I gave you that. I tell you do that because I love you. Because you're the king. I want you to do it again.

Bernardo: When?

Homolka: This summer because the winter time is too hard. If you want to do it 50 times more we can do it 50 times more. Every weekend. We can do it every weekend. Because I love you. Because you're the king. Because you dominate it.

Bernardo: Will you help me get the virgin?

Homolka: 21 [she is in the car with you if you went out to play here and I clean up afterwards. Me I did on Sunday. I did it everything I ever chose I want you to be happy. I need you in the king]

Victory at the Brickyard

At the Indy 500, Villeneuve sped to racing's top ranks



The champion, endorsements and Formula One success

T o Bill Brock, the fact that a Canadian won this year's Indianapolis 500 comes as no surprise at all. A racing legend in the mid-1970s, Toronto-born Brock captained the 1973 Canadian championship, then went on to win again in 1974 and 1975. Among his competitors were soon-to-be-famous drivers Bobby Labonte and Kyle Busch—and a dazzling, daring Quebecer named Gilles Villeneuve. "He was certainly one of the best five or six drivers ever," says Brock, 60, who now manages a jeep dealership in downtown Toronto. "He could have won the Indy 500 hands down. After Gilles came on the scene, it was so hard to believe that a Canadian could win anything." Villeneuve, of course, went on to international Formula One competition—and not a tragic death in 1982 at the Belgian Grand Prix. But finally, on May 28, the late driver's 34-year-old son, Jacques, became the first Canadian to capture the Indianapolis 500, North America's most prestigious title. It was, said the younger Villeneuve, "like winning the Olympics."

The Indy 500 is indeed the granddaddy of motor sports. Now 79 years old, it attracts more than 500,000 fans every year to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, where crashes, carousels and photo finishes are the annual fare. But that year's race yielded something different: The El庚tend was by Villeneuve, who was born in Montreal, Que., but who now drives his time between Montreal and Indianapolis, has firmly established himself as the nation's top sport car dynamo in the ranks of a sport long dominated by Americans and Europeans.

Born to believe? There are three main open-wheel—as opposed to stock-car—options in North America, roughly equivalent to two AAA-level leagues and a major league. At the basement level is the Player's Lot/Toyota Atlantic Championship—David Engberg, 38, of Toronto, is the two-times defending champion. The other minor league is the PPG Firestone Indy Lights Championship—29-year-old Greg Moore of Maple Ridge, B.C., is No. 7 this year with four wins in four starts. And at the apex of the racing pyramid is the PPG Indy Car

In many ways, it is remarkable that Canadians make up major league auto racing at all, let alone win the big races. IndyCar auto-racing costs well over \$200,000, and total team costs, including track, spare parts and personnel, can reach \$10 million a year. That raises the driver's ability to secure a corporate sponsor critical. And a pure Canadian at a disadvantage, since most Canadian teams have nowhere near the racing culture the United States does. Before being sponsored by Player's Ltd.—along with Molson, one of his major Canadian sponsors—Indy Lights prodigy Moore says he struggled to get by for two seasons. Now, however, he says the sponsorship “lets us go out there knowing that if I crash or anything goes wrong, we're going to be there for the next race.”

Villeneuve has almost certainly left financing worries in the past. Business manager Craig Pollock says that product endorsement of firms have nearly quadrupled since the Indy 500 “Jacques could be a walking billboard today, if he want,” ed,” says Pollock. The Indianapolis victory, however, has also led to the media speculation that Villeneuve will soon make the jump to the even more lucrative Formula One circuit. Pollock, noting that Villeneuve’s contract with Player’s Ltd. does not expire until Sept. 15, acknowledged that there is “serious interest” from several Formula One teams—although one report that the driver has turned down an offer from Ferrari is “totally unconfirmed.”

If he does go to Formula One—as he probably will—then competition between the two drivers may likely cause heat and furor. But to racing aficionados, father and son have little in common on the track. Jacques “doesn’t drive like his father at all,” says Brock. “His father was very wild—at times he thought he could control the car. Jacques is smooth.” And the driver himself seems to want to keep the Villeneuve family legacy—the stuff of sporting-column sensationalism—in the background. Asked at a postrace news conference what his father would think of his winning at the famed Brickyard, Villeneuve replied simply “I don’t know. I guess he’d be happy.”

JOE CHIGLEY

The lonely bull

A Quebecer takes on Ottawa over mad cow disease

G uido Koff forages in his refrigerator for something to fix his 2,000-lb. beast. Emerging with a hunk of cabbage, he marches out into the spring sunshine of Quebec's Eastern Townships and greets his guaranteed-bull—Gille Buffle. To look at Gille, one would never suspect that this colonial bovine may have mad cow disease, an insidious neurological disorder. Agriculture Canada officials want the shaggy and jolted. And while a federal court judge has ruled against them, their appeal of that decision was to be heard at federal court in Montreal on June 7 and 8. Bob Stell, 76, who runs Swiss Farms in L'Assomption, about 125 km east of Montreal, is incensed. “My objective,” he says, “is to prove it so that Agriculture Canada cannot show it isn’t healthy.”

Mad cow disease—or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)—has killed more than 350,000 cattle in Britain since 1986 and continues to kill 400 a week. Canada responded by banning cattle imports from Britain in 1990 to protect its export market, worth \$1.72 billion last year. But in November, 1993, an Alberta rancher near Red Deer shot a cow after suspecting it had a broken leg. Because the animal had been imported from Britain in 1987, federal veterinarians deserved to brain, killing for



GUIDO KOFF AND GILLE BUFFLE, awaiting clearing of mad cow disease

Televisions justified the decision to destroy Gille, ruling that it was “patently unreasonable,” as was Ottawa’s contention that BSE could infective for the life of the animal. British and American veterinarians say BSE incubates for at most eight years. Five other cattle owners also challenged the government, arguing that it had exceeded its jurisdiction under the Health of Animals Act. They lost, and were forced to kill their cattle or export them to Britain.

That leaves Bob Stell as the last of the marketable animals left in Canada. And it leaves Eric Bringman, acting chief of disease control at Agriculture Canada, adrift as the department will go all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada if necessary to put Gille down. And “if we lose the destruction order,” he says, “we still haven’t lost the quarantine order”—a reference to the agency’s power to isolate potentially diseased animals. But “if that happens, animal health committee chairman of the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association in Calgary, supports their position ‘Canada has the highest birth survival of any major beef-producing country in the world,’ he says. “Given that we export 80 per cent of our production, we’re very sensitive to implying that we’ll be viewed as non-compliant that status.”

Koff is standing firm. His bull remains healthy. “I’m a simple guy,” he says of a pensioner who has his company of 100 cattle. And Koff wants to market Gille’s offspring and share the bull’s name in a great breed. “If there was any reasonable suggestion that my bull should contract a risk,” says Koff, “by God, he’d go down with my blessing.” Bleeding or no, Agriculture Canada remains unconvinced.

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PEOPLE

HIGHWAY TO COMEDY HEAVEN

Beth MacDonald has been compared to Carol Burnett, Bette Midler and John Candy. The Cape Breton-based comedienne says that she is flattered by the comparisons to such legends, but adds that she has something they don't—an East Coast birthright. "There is something about being from East that lends itself to humor," she explains. "Maybe it's because we learn the secret of laughing at ourselves early on." Now, MacDonald, 30, who plays

different humorous characters, is making love outside Atlantic Canada, which she attributes to a grueling touring schedule. You know where you do comedy that being on the road is a part of," MacDonald says. "You are either preparing to go on the road, you're on the road you have to come off the road—or you are praying that you were funny enough last time and that you are going to get the call to go on the road again." There's no place like the stage.



A REGULAR JOE FROM SAN DIEGO

When actress Charles Grodin birthed his third child, in San Diego in 1990, she announced that she would call him RuPaul Andre Charles. "And here goes the downer," she added, "because there isn't another mother who sits with a name like that." Today, her little boy is a student, frequent drag queen known simply as RuPaul. After years of appearing in B-movies and performing as a

go-go dancer in New York City clubs, he is finally achieving mainstream success. He was part of the cast of "Apocalypse Now" for M.A.C. Cosmetics, representing the Toronto-based manufacturer of makeup in its campaign as well as in a commercial. RuPaul will also roll out his autobiography, *Let Me Be All Yours*. Due later this month, had he is appearing in *Man About Town*, in a coming movie, To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything... . John Newmark, starring Portia de Rossi, Wesley Snipes and John Leguizamo as three drag queens. Despite his mounting success, RuPaul remains modest. "I'm just a regular Joe," he says, "with the unique ability to accessorize."



STARTING YOUNG

According to scientist David Suzuki, who has taken on preserving the environment as his lifework, there is no time like the present. "It's a case of waiting for today's children to grow up and replace us in the fight," he says. "It's important that kids have input now." Suzuki, who splits his time between Toronto and Vancouver, says that the recently released Children's CD *Our Journey—Children Sing to the Best of the Earth*, which he narrates, is one tool to encourage an early appreciation of environmental issues. The CD includes such songs as "Clean Up" That, which deals with the idea of making the world a better place. "While some of the content might be serious, it's presented in a way that is easy to listen to and sing along with," Suzuki says. "We want to bring things into focus now." A timely message.



Suzuki: not waiting for the future

he will start work next year on a film version of *Spitfireman*. "So you see, reading Spuderman was part of my long-term goals objective," Cameron added. "My time here was well spent." That's one way to get to the head of the class.

Edited by BARBARA MCKEEON



THE ARTS AS SEEN BY



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Sow's ear, silk purse

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY
Directed by Clint Eastwood

It is rare for a movie to deliver more emotional heat than the book on which it is based. More often than not, brilliant books get diminished when adapted for the screen. Conversely, banal books occasionally make good movies. Robert James Waller's delightful confessional, *The Bridges of Madison County* (1992), has hovered on the best-seller list for ten years now, with sales of nine million copies in 33 languages. It must have something going for it. The story—of an Iowa farm wife who has a mysterious love affair with an itinerant photographer in the 1950s—is an obvious agent, as is a kind of whole-grain, Hartigan romance. But Waller's prose reads like wistful drivel, with some of the most preposterous dialogue ever penned. The photographer is a sensitive, melancholic, contemplative poet who calls himself "The last cowboy" and practices his romancing with such sweet musing as, "I am the highway and a passenger and all the souls that ever went to us."

Fortunately, the book does not make its scenes very clear. The movie starring Meryl Streep and Clint Eastwood as Frances and Robert—avoids the novel's most cringe-worthy flights, mostly Waller's writing. Nor does Frances tell Robert he is a "wild, unrefined animal." Nor does Robert feel obliged to enlighten her with an anachronistic New Mexican lesson about horsemen policing the planet. There is still some chaste dialogue. But Eastwood, who directs the film, lets the story tell itself in a spare, elegant style. His chemistry with Streep is credible, and the scene a thread intelligence to Frances that was absent from the book.

The movie's one embellishment is a framing device, in which Frances's grown son and daughter are shocked to learn of their father from his letters after her death. Their scenes, which serve as comic counterpoint to the romance, are needlessly cute. But they do their job—by prolonging the slow thaw of a story that is wrapped one homespun layer at a time.



Eastwood, Streep: The seduction is a slow-burn delight

It is the summer of '56. Frances, an Italian-American, has left home for a few days after her husband's infidelity, mostly Waller's writing. Nor does Frances tell Robert she is a "wild, unrefined animal." Nor does Robert feel obliged to enlighten her with an anachronistic New Mexican lesson about horsemen policing the planet. There is still some chaste dialogue. But Eastwood, who directs the film, lets the story tell itself in a spare, elegant style. His chemistry with Streep is credible, and the scene a thread intelligence to Frances that was absent from the book.

In defining a scene, the director does not make it clear what the actors first, while the young Eastwood essayed pure romance for the first time in his career, Streep, who is 45, is already perfectly born to the role again. That's why Hollywood actresses are expected to forget about starring in love stories.

In a world of bouncy romantic comedies, it is refreshing to see a slower, sleeker, middle-aged woman craving romance with the desirability of a field marriage. The story is dead simple, part as rapidly sexual for erosion. It proceeds in three incoherent sections, conversation and separation. The seduction, slow lived with suspended tension, is a delight.

The conversation—the actual love part of the love story—gets to be a bare, sleepy sleep fence of candlelight and soft duvet on too long. But although the movie sags in the middle, the final scenes of tragic separation are heartbreaking. And by the end of a river of tears has flowed beneath *The Bridges of Madison County*.

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BRIAN D. JOHNSON

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stage. Streep, in fact, has said she disliked the book because Frances is "irreducible." But in the script, by *The Fisher King* screenwriter Richard LaGravenese, she is a force to be reckoned with.

Streep, who transforms herself with a Latin accent and a solid physiology, creates a character who seems utterly grounded. The actress hangs Frances out of the shadows and underlines her vulnerability with a wry, needful sense of humor. She is courageous, stronger than she lets on, and even as she is swept away by Robert's folky charm, she sees right through it. She tells him she has no doubts about running off with this man of the world "who wants every one but me in particular."

Eastwood's role, meanwhile, is a bit of a stretch. In the wrong scenes (there are many), he appears to be straining to convey the requisite emotion. And, at 66, he is a little too old for the part (Robert is 52 in the book). But the actor, who displays his remarkable physique at judicious angles, is in exceptional shape. Besides, he is cast as an icon as well as an actor. After directing an revisionist western, *Unforgiven* (1992), Bridges serves like another act of piety or the delight of his career once again. Terry Gilliam is trying to come down.

Robert is supposed to represent a vanishing breed of American male, a cross between the Buddha and the Marlboro Man. In the novel, as a bemused diary object, it is a criticism of a male culture that is at odds with the "however" bridges we made to the rule. As a character and a performer, he is graceful.

Streep, she is the movie's heart and soul. And it is here again first, while the young Eastwood essayed pure romance for the first time in his career, Streep, who is 45, is already perfectly born to the role again. That's why Hollywood actresses are expected to forget about starring in love stories.

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THEATRE

Romance and ruin

The Shaw opens with sweetness—and murder

When George Bernard Shaw was born in Dublin in 1856, the Crimean War was raging and Queen Victoria had barely reached middle age. When he died in 1950, the atomic bomb and television were realities. Yet being nearly a century old, Shaw was in a unique position to bear witness to the rise of modernity. But his longevity had also other effects: it made possible one of the most unusual theatrical situations anywhere. Now, as in 1916, when the State Festival at Nagasaki, Japan, was held. The festival was dedicated with success by Paul Lempert, the play conveys an intense drama and simple affection for its characters that has all but disappeared from the contemporary stage.

A much larger and more ambitious production, *Shaw's Mrs. Warren's Profession*, is a compelling tale of murder and death in the Thatched River masterpiece by Newman. Despite its great energy, this

city apartment during the war. As they edge towards love (and hell) they engage in a death-like image of fraternal and impudent. Directed with success by Paul Lempert, the play conveys an intense drama and simple affection for its characters that has all but disappeared from the contemporary stage.

A much larger and more ambitious production, *Shaw's Mrs. Warren's Profession*, is a compelling tale of murder and death in the Thatched River masterpiece by Newman. Despite its great energy, this



Karen Wood and Steven Sussman in *The Kite*; freshly

turn-of-the-century comedy does not really explore the playwright's ideas at any length as has Major Barbara, *Heartbreak House* and other plays. Rather than offering up a gaudy assault of anachronism, Shaw instead creates a skillful debate between characters that play brooks through a Cook's tour of Shaw's concerns, from the emancipation of women in the cells of the British class system. Set in an English windsor town, *The Rose Cat* follows in three middle-class children who don't know who their father is, and their father, Fergie Creighton (Michael Shrieve), who does not want them to know. The production gets laughs largely by a social-climbing format. Valentine (Richard Rose) is a splendidly sung and includes a bit when a disguised British Lord (Todd Water) runs to mock and sneaks to his pretensions. Yet much of the movement has a forced, musical quality the hardly-party of Victorian Sunday afternoon, endlessly grinding. This is one of those times when the Shaw Festival offers a glimpse of how life used to be—and the most likely reaction is relief at having escaped it.

The fresh air of Victoria England is on display in the 45-minute comic operetta *The Zoo* by Arthur Sullivan and Sir Arthur Sullivan. It is a splendidly sung and includes a bit when a disguised British Lord (Todd Water) runs to mock and sneaks to his pretensions. Yet much of the movement has a forced, musical quality the hardly-party of Victorian Sunday afternoon, endlessly grinding. This is one of those times when the Shaw Festival offers a glimpse of how life used to be—and the most

JOHN BEHROSE

The car is showing a gleaming jewel in black and chrome. It is a 1938 Bugatti 57 Atlantic, and Pierre Thibierge, director of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, pauses to cast a reflective eye over the French-made vehicle's bold lines. "This is a masterpiece," he says, "created by Jean Bugatti at the company's factory in Molsheim only a year before he died." The gas tank, following the seasonally flowing curve of fender and roof, the raised spine of mounting that stitches together the outer, exotic creation and the curious passenger compartment, shaped like a skull with drooping eyes. "They threw out the rule book on this one," he says. "When looking at parts from here, a sculpture seems as near [as] all the pieces in our exhibit, the Atlantic is probably the one that most closely approaches the ideal of absolute perfection in automobile design."

There are other examples of that ideal currently on display at the Montreal museum, 40 of them, to be exact. A collection of sometimes weird, often wonderful, machines, each one an experiment in automotive design, the show is scattered over two floors of the MMFA's north翼. Titled Moving Beauty, it looks at the evolution of the automobile, from a fresh perspective, as a living creation rather than a product of the technological age. And, unlike its inception in the late-19th century, to the present preoccupation with the automobile's impact on the environment. And in the process, the show has anguished Montreal's artistic community, while clearly delighting the city's public at large.

Attendance figures are any grade. Moving Beauty may well turn out to be one of the most successful exhibits mounted by the MMFA. More than 35,000 people have visited the show since its May 11 opening, and close to 350,000 are expected by the time it closes on Oct. 15. Word-of-mouth is glimpse the 50 cars on display have become massive. Even before the exhibit's launch, \$1.2 million in sponsorships had been arranged, a record for the museum. Thibierge, who conceived and designed Moving Beauty himself, endures no attempt to dispel his hopes that the show will turn a profit. "What's wrong with that?" he shrugs. "It's so never that we could use the money."

Money, in fact, is at the heart of the entire debate about Moving Beauty. The show carries a \$3-million price tag—the insurance, shipping, research and publicity. What is more, if opened a month before an equally expensive exhibit, a \$3.2 million showing of European Symbolist art in the MMFA's north翼, across the street. While corporate sponsorships have helped to cover some of the costs, the museum was also hit this year by a \$1.5-million cut to its \$14.9-million



1938 Bugatti 57 Atlantic, closest to "the ideal of absolute perfection"

the museum's contemporary art pavilion to make way for the automobile. "The car is so much a part of our lives that we really don't see it for what it is," he explains. "I wanted to get people to step back and look at the car as an object that has been conceived and demands—created—in art." Thibierge says that the idea dawned during an exhibition he organized in 1991, The 1930s Art of the Metropolis. "There was a Bugatti in that show," he says, "and I was suddenly struck by the astonishing number of connections that could be made between the car and Art Deco. It occurred to me then that the automobile could be an excellent subject for an exhibition that would treat it as an independent object, outside the history of mechanics and technology."

Moving Beauty is the result of that original inspiration

Thibierge assembled the collection himself, after severing public and private collections in Canada as well as in the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Italy. The Hispano-Suiza is owned by designer Ralph Lauren, while a 1941 Chrysler Newport, part of the collection of the William F. Harrah Foundation, once belonged to screen star James Stewart.

The very first prototype as proposed by an internal combustion engine is on display, an 1886 Benz II in a delicate copper-tint, not much more than a mounted tricycle. At the other end of the scale in both time and visual is a 1967 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz, the epitome of the North American carmaker society's down of abundance and prosperity. In between are all manner of creations, ranging from 1930s classics such as the 1934 Chrysler Airflow, the 1932 Cord Westchester, and the 1948 Tucker, to the elegance of today's still popular, if outrageously expensive, Porsche and Ferrari roadsters, which range in price from \$30,000 to \$700,000.

Among the most bizarre in appearance are a trio of revolutionary vehicles from the early years of the century. The 1914 Alfa 80/88 Aeroplano, commissioned by an Italian pilot, is a silver eagle on wheels straight out of a Jules Verne novel. The 1916 Mail-à-Godet Schnecke, built for American racing legend Barney Oldfield, gets its name from its appearance. The 1921 Rambler Tropfenwagen, built on a Bramford chassis, recalls the bubbles that form from the droplets of the same period. These vehicles were early experiments in aerodynamics, placing them well ahead of their "bulky" and "expensive" relatives, vehicles including the 1936 Ford Model V-8, which featured an integrated firebox on both Europe and the United States at the time.

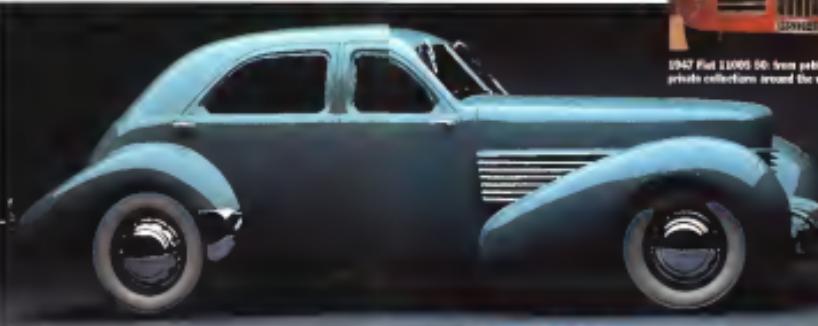
Thibierge argues that the automobile, throughout its history, has conformed to two basic paradigmatic types. The first, which has given us the vast majority of cars on the road today, resulted from the natural evolution of replacing the horse on the buggy with an engine. But the second, which inspired the MMFA's exhibit, is entirely removed from the concept of the harmless carriage, and involves principles of aerodynamics or cushion, or a combination of the two. "Most of the cars you see around here exemplify that truly revolutionary, experimental and protofuturistic automobile," he says. "To show the ideal or the real."

That is precisely why Thibierge chose to display the few cars he has assembled in such a sparse setting. The walls contain only brief descriptions of the cars themselves. There has been no attempt to link the individual vehicles to the artistic movements that influenced their designs. For those who have noticed the exhibit, that is a total fail. But, argues Thibierge, "pure form is the key concept here. The whole point is that these cars are sculptures; objects of art to be gazed at in search of conprehension, not drivers." On that count at least, Moving Beauty is as fascinating a concept as many of the creatures it contains, wood and leather and oil canisters.

BARRY CAMP

A Montreal museum looks at cars sculpture—and ignites an artists' debate

CLASSY CHASSIS



1936 Cord 812 Westchester; 1954 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing (left); 1934 Alpine 40/50 (right) (Courtesy of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts)



1947 Fiat 1100S 500 from public and private collections around the world



grain from the province of Quebec. As a result, Thibierge has eliminated 18 out of 230 full-size pretensions and closed the museum library to the public. And that prompted a demonstration by a milling crowd of angry Montreal artists, who picked Moving Beauty's lunch, accusing Thibierge not only of mismanagement but also of deeming the museum's standards by stamping in posture as objects of fine art in a vulgar pursuit of profits. "The timing was unfortunate," Thibierge sighs, "but we started to organize those two shows long before we knew what the government was going to do our funding."

The MMFA director offers no apologies, however, for closing



Russian roué

A celebrated writer maintains an appetite for life

BY ANTHONY WILSON SMITH

I Yuryevgeny Yevtushenko did not exist, another author might have invented him as the central character in one of those sweeping epics that Russian writers adore. The problem would be that, as a work of fiction, Yevtushenko's real-life status evades literary reference in Russia since his name, he attracts students crowds of up to 30,000 for his poetry readings. He is no knight as an actor, director, screenwriter and political activist. And his passion for life includes literally significant parts of it in the company of women and good wine. Appropriately for a man who has achieved success in a career as longer than life, he is, at six feet three inches, larger than most people around him, dressed in an electric, electric manner that would do the lead singer at a rock hard rock, and, with his famous piercing blue eyes unclouded at age 61, has just as much stage presence. As he tells someone who has spent close to half a century being acclaimed by Yevtushenko for his up-to-the-minute achievement, "I am the spiritual grandfather of Pavlovs," he says, cheerfully likening himself to the man generally regarded as Russia's greatest writer.

Somewhat, although not always, the quality of Yevtushenko's writing approaches the level of such a claim. As a poet, his work has ranged from the sublime, such as his 1961 epic *Babi Yar*—dealing with Russian and German anti-Semitism during the war—to the incomprehensible, including much of the work he did in the 1950s. Yevtushenko himself, once chronically declared that "his poetry is 70 per cent 'garbage' and 30 per cent 'poetry.' " His new book, *Don't Die Before You're Dead* (Key Porter, \$25.95), marks a return to grace. It also looks up to another of Yevtushenko's assertions—that he reflects Russia's troubled soul. "People can like this book, or they may not," he said in the course of a recent two-hour interview in Moscow of a recent two-hour interview in Moscow. "Either way, they should accept that it represents Russia the way it is."

On one level, the title reflects Yevtushenko's concern that Russians, mired in a life of constant fear and depression during



Yevtushenko: poet, activist, lover of wine and women

reform policies of then-President Mikhail Gorbachev. Their object was to restore the Soviet Union to its former status as a world power in fact, more than anyone else, they based it on dissolution.

But Yevtushenko spends little time investigating the event's historical importance. Rather, it serves as a backdrop and catalyst for the manner in which ordinary people can enact an extraordinary event. The reader is invited to those who joined current Russian President Boris Yeltsin in resisting the political maneuvering of the old Soviet regime to understand, like the author, that there is more to a man than a legend for the main character. At the heart of the epic, Yevtushenko writes, "the core of the Yeltsin story was in the balance," divided into three countries. One was Englanded and wedged as return to yesterday. The second did not yet know what tomorrow would be like, but did not want to return to yesterday. The third was waiting.

Much of the public discussion of the book so far has focused on Yevtushenko's portraits of such big guns as Gorbatchev, former Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and President Boris Yeltsin. They are written in a breezy manner that conveys some pithy bubble such as specialist on the forces that affected Gorbatchev early in life, with an easy mix of anecdote and insight that reflects the intimate access Yevtushenko had to top levels of the Soviet leadership. Yevtushenko remains, overall, a fan of all three men, despite the fact that he declined a medal from Yeltsin last year as a protest against Russian army behavior in Chechnya. "Yeltsin," he says, "is a good guy, but we need a poet, not an ate, now." Yevtushenko also confesses regret over the breakup of the Soviet Union, "not for what it was, but for the brotherhood of different groups that it could have been."

Yevtushenko's closest tie with former Soviet leaders also serves as a reminder of the suspicion that some Russians still harbor towards him. That resentment is based on the fact that he lived a privileged life in the former empire even while presenting himself as one of its most ardent ardent critics. Of first, Yevtushenko says wistfully, "people would look at my record. They cannot only I pretended to criticize when the record shows so clearly that I spoke against but policies very publicly using names."

The real critics of *Don't Die Before You're Dead*, and Yevtushenko's strength as a writer, lies in the skill with which he refutes the contradictory elements that we are told of the literary soul. The book's most startling and令人印象深刻的 figures are both

Boning up on osteoporosis

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- Family history of osteoporosis?
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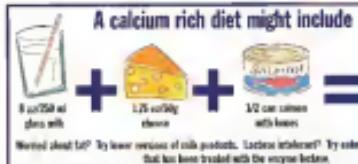
- a broken wrist, rib or hip
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selfish, the middle-aged, disillusioned and alcoholic Zalman, and Bent, an earlier and physically opposing woman whose determination and strength of character only re-ignite Zalman's weaknesses, and the paradox of her devotion to him. Her recklessness derives from her promise to be "The best that is always writing for you." Still, their relationship is ultimately doomed in less stable bands than Yevgenyevka, their stay would be happy. But the author knows his characters too well to allow that, and their relationship is all the more compelling for the fact that he emphasizes their flaws. Yevgenyevka, who has been married for nine years to his fourth wife, Masha, a physician (they have two children), says that Zalman "is really me." And Bent "is a woman who loved me really, and who I did not have the good sense to love back until it was too late."

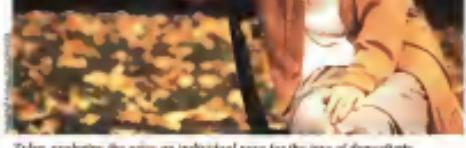
Other fictional characters include Stepan Pechikov, a Moscow police officer who joins the side of the coup plotters. He is a classic figure in detective fiction, the weary cop who hides himself in his job to hide from a disintegrating marriage. Yerusha herself also appears, in first person, revealing his role in the event. Few other authors would have the cheek to include themselves—not once, but in two different characters, in the same book.

With his headlong for epic tragedy and layered prose, and his experience to mine the depths of the Russian soul, Yevgenyevka is an obvious heir to a literary tradition of tragic plays about and down the existential track to such figures as Dostoevsky and Tolstoy. But Yevgenyevka is a highly contradictory novel. Despite the despair that suffuses some of its writing, he maintains a huge appetite for life. His angry expression with the swift passing of time is coupled with concern over how much in the here "I have lost" as a moment which we'll never recapture. "I have to live and play every day but I will give at least 30 more years of life. And with that, I could share 10 more litres, write five more novels," he says.

He now spends half of each year teaching Russian studies at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma—describing himself as "the ultimate citizen of the world." Considering that he speaks fluent English, French and Spanish as well as Russian, and that his work has been translated into over 500 different languages, that may be true. And he delights in recouping the fact that American author John Steinbeck, shortly before his death, predicted to Yevgenyevka, then known only as a poet, that he would one day become known as "a great writer of prose."

"You see?" says Yevgenyevka after a great swallow from a glass of Burgundy wine. "I must have more time to fulfil my destiny," and Steinbeck's prediction. "He says that his sequel to this book, which he has already started writing, will be called *Don't Be Afraid To Die*." And Yevgenyevka hopes to take that advice personally...

Feeling stale and ignored, a woman walks away from her family, finding both sadness and a sense of liberation



Tyler explores the price an individual pays for the joys of domesticity

Exile of the heart

LADDER OF YEARS

By Anne Tyler
Knopf, 328 pages, \$29.95

Some readers approach with the sense of their own life, while others create dazzling imaginary worlds. But American author Anne Tyler is better by focusing on the little things in life. In *Ladder of Years*, in her seventh novel, she takes us into another world. She invites readers to take another look, from an angle, to see if they might find day-to-day existence a little former, a little stronger, a little more touching than they had first thought.

Dela Graswood, the novel's main character, is a middle-aged woman living at the edges with an indifferent morning, rarely childhood, and adults' demanding the majority of her life. It seems very she is a carbon copy of Maggie, the eponymous heroine of Tyler's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1988 novel *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. But when Maggie vanishes in close to her own back to her home, Dela is motivated by "that profound and alluring fear that you will never be home again" that you feel when you've lost heart or interest or bloom for granted."

During a fairly vacation, feeling festively agitated, Dela spills out of her old world and into a new. Gradually she reexamines herself, allowing content and serendipity to guide her choices: new town, new home, new job, new friends.

TIM WENGER

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3 in 4 Canadians will develop some type of cancer during their lifetime. 1 in 5 will die of it. And it is this continuing disease that is the focus of our new foundation. That is why the new foundation is just as much an effort, a vision, as the restaurant project itself: "to bring in a new soul," the way the children's section of a library platform because of the "Seashell tape holding the tattered picture books together." In fact, as these details—the hidden poetry of everyday lives—that are often the best part of Tyler's fiction.

Yet, some readers will find *Ladder of Years* too safe and predictable. By focusing attention on the little times, the author also tends to limit the novel's resonance. Even with her poignant *Breakfast*—the price an individual pays for the joys of lonely life—Tyler's soliloquies reach deep enough to leave a lasting impression. Nevertheless, her latest novel is an accomplished work. With its modest intentions and measured prose, *Ladder of Years* is as quietly pleasurable as a chatty conversation with a dear old friend.

So please call Princess Margaret — The Cancer Hospital at (416) 926-6560 and give as much as you can. Provide hope and a home for Canada's newest cancer fighters.

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Child	Age 16+
Male	Female
Present	
Phone #	1
Donation Amount	
Other \$	\$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00
Method of Payment	Cheque G Visa G MasterCard
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"Thank you
Princess Margaret Hospital
from the bottom of my heart!" -
Cancer Survivor

This space is reserved for Princess Margaret Hospital's Cancer Survivors. Please do not write in this section.



The pleasure of Portugal

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

Things are very simple on the Algarve in Portugal. There are only three colors. All the buildings are a blinding white. All the cliffs are orange, the same color as all the roof tiles on all the buildings. All the sea is blue. It's very simple.

It's not really a sea, of course, on this stretch of paradise that is the most south-western point in Europe. It is the Atlantic Ocean, moving east towards its meeting with the Mediterranean at Gibraltar. It will do.

Carvoeiro, once a fishing village, seems the right spot for the regular British transplant. Some place that G.I. and ex-pat convert teach. No news of the Gataufa election, which is about to throw out the fascists and throw in a new bunch of racists. No telephone, in fact, on the premises. It will do.

The cuts like it. Carvoeiro looks like the world convention of cats. Shipping out of the harbor, riding the alleys, mysteriously appearing beside the pool are small, shaggy cats, hot with sleek coats that indicate they eat quite well—according to the local cat expert.

An English pub in town is called Mariana. It has a large sign of a cat up top. Named after, it seems clear, Manga Jerry, the rugrat cut from T. S. Eliot who resurfaced in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats*.

It must be realized that there has been a long connection between the Brits and the Portuguese. The special relationship goes back more than 600 years. The Treaty of Windsor, signed in 1386, pledged their permanent alliance and friendship and effectively stopped Spain's further incursions into the Iberian Peninsula.

King John I of Portugal stopped the Castilians marching on the road to Lisbon in 1385—he was aided by a detachment of British archers. It is not far afield that the English are today the world's largest consumers of port. Blame it on the archers.

All this must be explained to get the jist of Carvoeiro today, which is essentially a Brit colony transplanted to the beach. There are all those British ones with their strange batch of weeping socks under their sandals. Some of



colorful bikinis on their foreheads, chests and ample bellies, they prevent suddenly with socks under their sandals. Is this a religious cult? A sexual tribe? One is forever passed. Blame it on the archers.

At Albufeira, 35 kilometers away, there are the Saturday afternoon highlights. ("The bull is not killed!" shout the posters, for fear—one supposes—that any西班牙 patrón may think they are still in Spain.) The black beauties instead are leered from horseback, the most elegant, dancing horses ever seen. A horse with long legs, ranging in elegant circles can always escape a sharp-legged, and stupid, bull.

In case there is a problem, the bull brochure advertises "Bingo"—next to the bull ringing. "The Portuguese know their bulls. Six hundred pairs of prostitutes have taught them the lessons. These useful archers."

It is the FA Cup Final in Mafra, or over Westgate, Manchester United vs. Liver-

pool. It is Menorquín reduced to bilious. The Bass Ale flows. Red-faced ladies in floral colors below. Why does anyone have to leave England? Blame it for the weather.

There is Ned, a Scottish computer systems engineer with an accent thicker than the auto-and-sherry. He has spent 15 years in Germany, France and the United States for IBM, instructing other boffins. A son in an law school in California. No, he says, he did not produce Nick Lesson. He has been here three months.

The party at Mafra's, if seems, moved on. Carvoeiro's bar hours being flexible on such occasions. It ended, he recalls, at 6:30 a.m. He then walked five kilometers home up the hill to his better than Edinburgh villa, as he recalls. "There are two types of river—vertical and horizontal."

All the cats are Mercedes. Not a Harbor can be found, a fish that Caudilho had never heard of and Camerinos rotas route would never serve but has made Bruno Tóton a prime ministerial candidate. Stark is taste. The aranhas are too good to eat, the shore-birds adorably ugly.

The high point of the day is the arrival of the London papers. It's the only place I've ever been where the newspapers cost more than the food. The locals can't resist the latest royal scandal. It's why the town's seasonal owner vacation in Anguilla in the Caribbean, where there are no football fields.

One feels sorry for the outnumbered Germans. In Greece and in Spain, they can outlast the Brits out-spend them, the two breeds nervously running into one another in restaurants where they have only one common ground—the sun.

At the town square, close by the beach, there is Sally's, where at the seats at the rear are patrons who look off if they want to burst into tears at Mother Teresa at any moment. Behind the bar, hiding behind a Latin T-shirt, is Flavia, who is from Angola—a former Portuguese colony.

A young man, he has been here 22 years, the Carvoeiro brachis very hard to resist. He has a girlfriend in Austria, but understandably can't stand the snow. It's inter si Sally's.

It is nigh impossible to describe the halibut-sized beach is carved out by the Atlantic from the towering orange cliffs on the Algarve. One day, clutching down the cliffs to the pillow-like sand and the surf and the Atlantic, I have encountered a thin and comical tourist, sporting fine line of caned out for the ever-present fan cats with sleek coats emerging from the bushes.

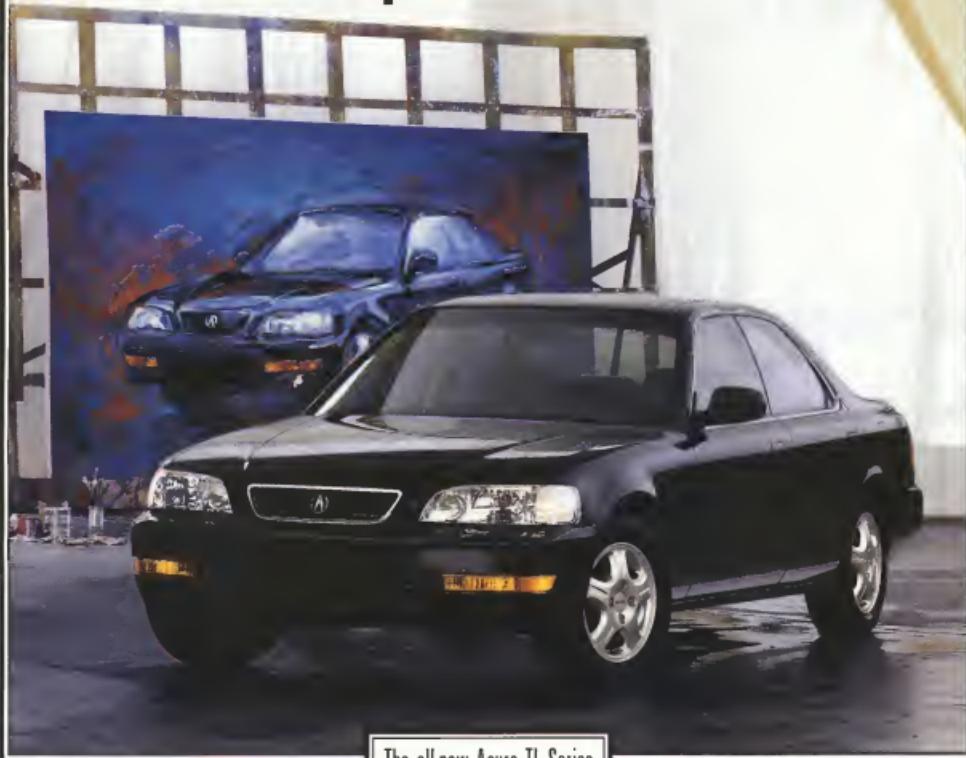
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